

THE TIMES

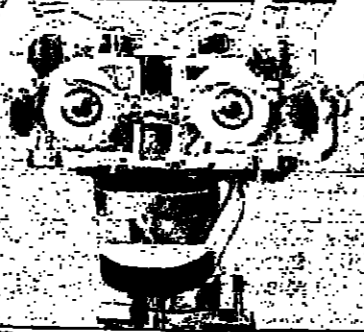


No. 66,362

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Robot that laughs, lies and loves

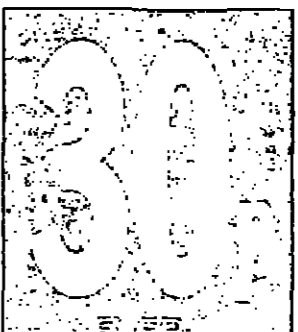


page 16

Putting on the style



Clooney on fun, fame and fans



20% OFF AT HABITAT THIS CHRISTMAS... plus INTERFACE plus CREME APPOINTMENTS

Britain backs EU turn to the Left

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is to join France, Germany and eight other European Union countries in a left-wing policy manifesto that commits the Government to common cause with the states inside monetary union.

Uniting in a single manifesto, the social democrat parties that now dominate the EU are to pledge themselves to co-ordinate economic policies for growth, including a push for harmonising taxes and heavy spending to boost employment and avert recessions.

Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's

hard-left Finance Minister, visits London tomorrow to join Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in putting finishing touches to the paper setting out a left-wing "policy agenda" for a "New European Way" inside monetary union, to be launched on January 1. The paper, to be issued in Brussels on Sunday by the finance ministers of France, Germany, Britain and the eight other socialist-led states of the European Union, distils the new order in the EU which was consolidated with the election of Germany's Social Democrat Government in September. "A united Europe is our response to the challenge that globalisation poses to old nation state policy," it says.

Although the manifesto is couched in broad terms, Britain's commitment to an agenda for managing monetary union is seen by other EU states as a powerful sign of the Government's eagerness to be part of the euro project. "They are trying every way to ensure that they are not excluded," a French official said. Another senior diplomat said the paper was Tony Blair's way of avoiding being sidelined from the "Euro-II" states which are joining the euro and harmonising policies in the euro zone. Work on the paper, called *The*

New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of EMU, began in February during the British EU presidency. Only Belgium, Spain, Ireland and Luxembourg - states not led by left-wing parties - are not endorsing the paper, a draft of which has been obtained by *The Times*.

Its main thrust is a commitment to closer co-ordination of budget and economic policies to ensure growth and promote employment. "We have to co-operate, to co-ordinate and to develop a set of common rules for the economic and social well-being of European citizens," it says. In a whiff of regulation

enthusiasm that would have been anathema to the previous British Government - or, indeed, the last German one - it says monetary union requires closer "co-ordination of economic and structural policies in order to promote fair rules of competition". Britain and the three other states not joining the euro at the start must "co-operate with ... those having already introduced the single currency in order to ensure the European Way."

On taxation, the manifesto mixes British-style calls for lightening the fiscal burden with the continental drive for tax harmony in the interest of "fair" competition. "Taxation should not distort decisions with regard to labour, capital and services... EMU will intensify the potential for tax competition. Therefore further efforts have to be undertaken to avoid harmful tax competition among the member states," the draft says. The EU's main target is to speed up work on minimum levels of tax on corporate profits and savings. Britain has until now been attempting to slow down both drives. On Monday, Herr Lafontaine predicted that the German EU presidency, starting in January, would achieve agreement on tax harmonisation by June. The paper also mixes British-

backed pledges to remove barriers to trade with a French-inspired commitment to preserve public services previously run by the state. To protect services such as gas, electricity and telecoms, "we need a new culture of regulation," it says. The agenda's most sensitive goal, in continental terms, is an attempt to reinforce the push by France, Germany and Italy to bring to heel the European Central Bank, the independent manager of the euro. The paper tells the bank it must take into account the needs of job creation.

Leading article, page 19

Revolt by peers over curbs on Euro poll

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Lords yesterday staged a huge display of defiance against the Government when peers rejected for a fourth time plans to restrict voter choice in the European elections.

In what has become a bruising trial of strength between the Lords and the Government, peers insisted they had the right to ask the Commons to think again. The Lords has not defeated a government four times on the same issue since the 1970s when it threw out two nationalisation Bills. Ministers spoke of a constitutional crisis and accused

peers of abusing their powers. They insisted that next summer's elections risked being plunged into chaos if the parliamentary impasse is not resolved over the next few days.

The Lords, as the inferior chamber, normally backs down after playing a couple of rounds of legislative "ping pong" with the Commons.

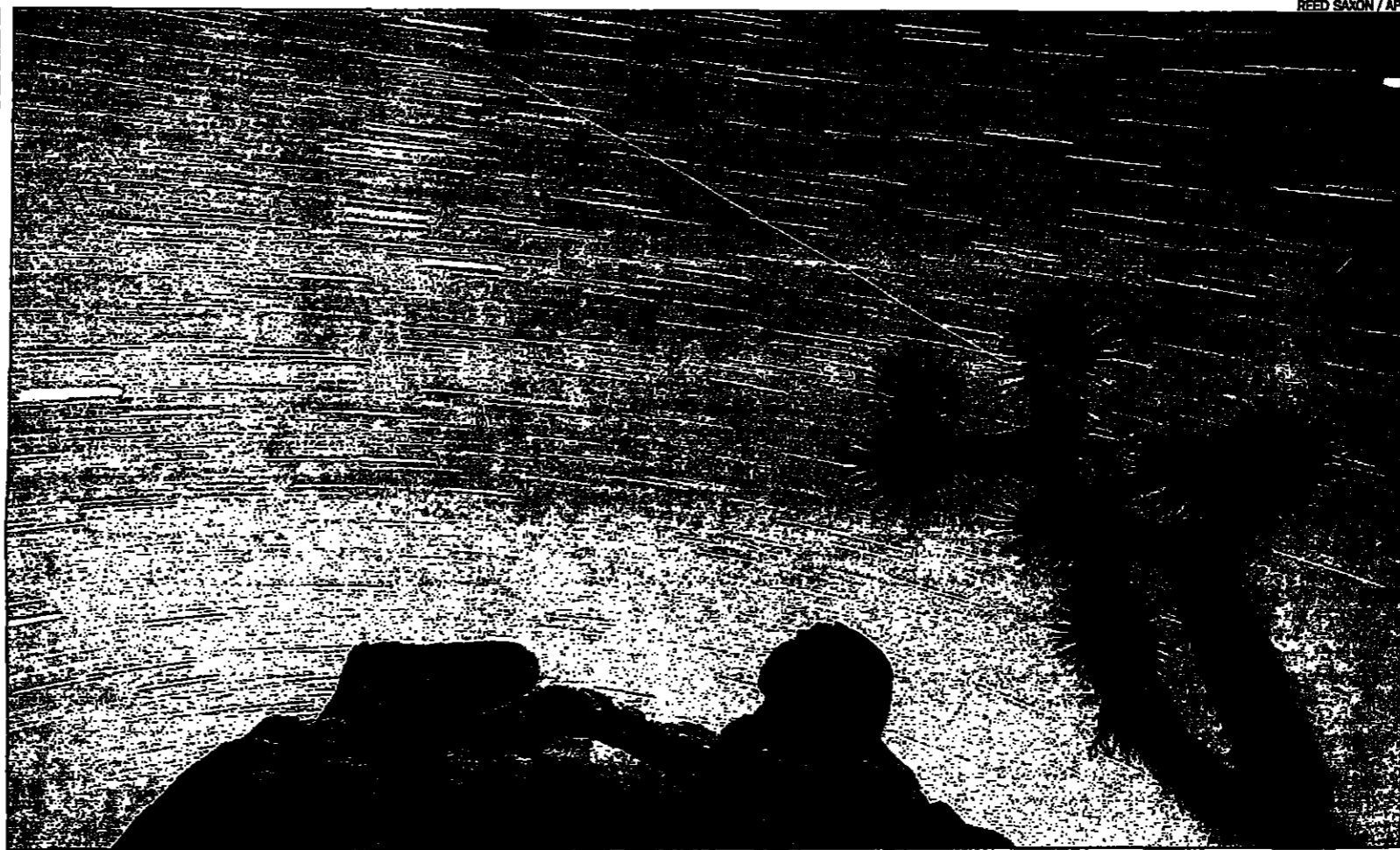
But peers voted by 261 to 198, a majority of 63, to insist that electors have the right to back an individual candidate in the new system of proportional representation being introduced for next year's poll.

The Government wants a so-called "closed list" system in which voters would determine how many seats a party wins but the parties themselves would decide which individuals become MEPs. The Tories, many crossbenchers, and some Labour backbenchers believe this gives too much power to party apparatchiks at the expense of voters. The ping pong will continue today when the European Parliamentary Elections Bill returns to the Commons. The Government will introduce a new amendment - which it is bound to do under parliamentary rules - and, after a vote, send the Bill back to the Lords the same afternoon.

Ping pong can continue indefinitely if the Commons continues sending back new amendments. The Bill would die only if agreement was not reached when the parliamentary session ends on Friday. If it is lost, the Government can accept defeat and hold the elections under the existing first-past-the-post system; or it can reintroduce the Bill in next week's Queen's Speech.

Mr Blair's official spokesman said he saw the vote as "an affront to democracy". William Hague, the Tory leader, said it was a victory for commonsense and democracy.

Leading article, page 19



A meteor cuts across the star-lit sky, framed by a Joshua tree and rocks, in Southern California's Mojave Desert in this 30 minute-exposure photograph

Comet 'brings extraterrestrial life'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Earth may have been showered with bacteria as it passed through the Leonid meteor stream last night, two astronomers believe. Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe and Sir Fred Hoyle have long championed the theory that microscopic forms of life may have originated elsewhere with Earth sweeping them up on its orbit.

Once ridiculed, the theory has gained in plausibility with the discovery that comets do contain large amounts of organic matter and carbon-based chemicals which include amino

acids, the basic building blocks of proteins. It achieved respectability last night when Nasa, the US space agency, launched its first "astrobiology" mission using aircraft to seek traces of extraterrestrial life in the meteor stream.

The Leonid shower, expected to peak at about 7pm yesterday, consists of the trail of the comet Tempel-Tuttle. As the Earth passes through that trail, thousands of tiny particles of matter burn up in the atmosphere to create "shooting stars" - brief streaks of light.

Every 33 years or so, the spectacle is enhanced because the comet has recently passed close to the Sun, boiling off more material from its surface. This

year and next promise such a show, and astronomers were out last night hoping to see a repeat of the last major Leonid storm in 1966.

Most people have overlooked the possibility of living bacteria from Tempel-Tuttle reaching the Earth, said Professor Wickramasinghe. Because the comet last passed close to the Sun only nine months ago, cometary particles will be freshly evaporated from its surface.

As well as solid particles the size of a grain of sand, which burn to create meteors, the stream will contain perhaps an equal mass of bacterial-sized particles, he believes. As these reach the stratosphere, they will be flash-heated

to 230C (446F) or so for a few seconds. That is normally sufficient heat to sterilise bacteria, but laboratory experiments have shown some survive. Even bacteria deactivated by ultraviolet light - as they might be after nine months in orbit - can come back to life thanks to enzymes.

Each day some 50 tons of cometary dust reach Earth. During the Leonids, that could increase by a factor of ten thousand, leading to a total mass of a million tons.

If as little as one part in a thousand of that material is viable bacteria, the total drifting to Earth would be 100,000 billion billion, or 10 to the power of 23.

Regiments cut back

Many of Britain's best-known regiments, such as the Green Howards and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, will be cut back in the restructured Territorial Army. Page 6

US rates down

The Federal Reserve cut US rates to their lowest level in four years as the battle against global financial market turmoil continued. Page 23

Fishing curbs to tackle fall in salmon

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SALMON anglers are to face severe restrictions on the number of fish they can keep. The season during which anglers can keep salmon that catch is to be halved under radical plans to save the king of fish from extinction. Proposals to be unveiled today by the Environment Agency will require anglers by law to release salmon they catch in

England and Wales up to June 16. It is hoped to save 2,000 to 3,000 Spring-running salmon or up to a fifth of the 12,000 of Britain's spawning stock. The restrictions, which have been generally welcomed by anglers and owners of fishing hotels as more favourable than outright closures, will hit over 30,000 anglers. The new, national bylaws which are expected to come into force, will cover over a dozen rivers. These include the main salmon angling rivers of

the Lune, Ribble and Eden in Lancashire; the Dee and Usk in Wales; the Wye in the West Country and the Exe, Taw, Tamaz, Dart and Torridge in the South West.

Chris Poupard of the Salmon and Trout Association in London said that until now only the odd river in England and Wales have had any kind of restrictions and these have been purely voluntary.

The proposals, which come after alarm in Britain and abroad over the sharp decline

in salmon stocks, include a crackdown on the netting of migratory salmon returning to rivers at sea.

Experts blame global warming, which has raised temperatures in the Atlantic as well as the silting up of spawning beds from intensive agriculture and over-fishing.

In Scotland, restrictions are on a river by river basis. On the Tweed anglers catching before June 1 must throw the first fish back but can keep the second one.

Survival test for grammar schools

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S few remaining grammar schools will face an annual battle for survival under government regulations approved by MPs last night.

Anti-selection campaigners will be able to organise parental petitions every year, pressing for a vote to turn their local grammar school into a comprehensive. Although grammar schools would win a five-year breathing space if they fought off the challenge in a resulting ballot, many are likely to face annual campaigns trying to collect enough signatures to trigger a vote.

The regulation, approved 9-5 by MPs on the standing committee considering the Education Bill, threatens the future of many of the country's 166 grammar schools.

The details, published yesterday, mean that grammar schools will now be living under a "permanent state of uncertainty", the Tories say.

The Government also faced fierce criticism that it was tilting the result of ballots in favour of abolition by loading the wording of the question against grammar schools.

Rather than being asked if they want to do away with local grammar schools, parents will be asked if they are in favour of "introducing admission arrangements which admit children of all abilities".

Damian Green, the Tories' education spokesman, said the wording amounted to a "rigged" question. "This is trying to push parents towards a 'yes' rather than a 'no'."

The details, as approved yesterday, lay out for the first time the precise route campaigners would have to follow before they successfully force grammar schools to stop selecting the best local pupils.

Before a grammar school's future came down to a vote, a fifth of local parents would have to sign a petition to spark a vote. Petition organisers will have the whole school year in which to seek signatures.

Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, said the plans laid the basis for "fair and workable" ballots. But Alan Jones, headmaster of the 800-pupil, co-educational Ripon Grammar School, said regulations were likely to lead to a "sapping effect" on school morale.

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It's what your television's been crying out for

Just what a girl needs in a crisis - a Daddy to depend on

Help! Dad! I'm in trouble! Quick!

If the cry comes from a favourite daughter, what father could resist? When, as I watched yesterday's Lords debate on the European Elections Bill, I saw Lord Callaghan of Cardiff rise to speak, I ran to watch. It was Daddy to the rescue.

This must be a crisis. Jim Callaghan, Britain's last Labour Prime Minister before Tony Blair, speaks rarely in the Upper Chamber. When he does, he speaks well. When he

does, it matters. His eldest daughter, Margaret, Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the House of Lords, calls upon her father rarely in the House they share. When she does, she's in serious trouble. And so it proved. I have seldom seen Lord Callaghan speak more angrily or eloquently. At times he was shouting. In language almost never heard in that genteel place, he described Tory troublemakers as the "hooligan tendency". Adapting a remark of Balfour's he declared: "I'd as

soon consult my valet as consult the Earl of Onslow about political tactics."

Lord Onslow, an amiable but maverick fellow, proud to be a hooligan on this Bill, will have glowed with surprised pride. You need some sense of the courtesy and mutual regard which normally prevails among peers to appreciate the passion that insult was meant to convey, and did. This, declared Callaghan, his voice rising, was a "second-level issue" — no occasion for constitutional impasse. On the front

bench his daughter nodded in anxious approval.

"Call off your troops!" he shouted at the Tory Chief Whip, Lord Strathclyde. It had the ring of desperation. The crossbenchers — nervous, principled creatures — quivered. What were they about to do? Join a Tory conspiracy? Were they right to do it? The closest thing the Opposition could find to a Callaghan checkmate rose. Lord Tebbit angrily defended Lord Onslow. Was his friend supposed to send his valet, then, to speak?

Lord McNally, once a Labour MP, now a Liberal Democrat peer, repeated the determined but defensive argu-

ments his party has used for supporting a government measure they do not like. He sounded rattled. He called Callaghan "my noble friend" though they are of different parties. Aaah! shouted the Tories, regarding this as a Lib-Lab giveaway. "If you don't know that he'll always be my noble friend, then you don't know me," shouted McNally, abandoning the traditional indirect speech in his fury.

I have seldom seen both sides more a-quiver. Both conveyed a sense of knowing they

were on the brink of something from which it would be hard to retreat. Just as Lord Williams of Mostyn (also pale and quiet with emotion) was about to sum up for the Government, one of the bishops rose.

Bishops are the unguided missiles of the Upper Chamber — unguided by human agency, anyway: you can never know what a bishop is about to say because all too often he does not know himself. Bishops do not quite quake as Quakers quake when in-

habited by the inner light, but they convey a trembling innocence which suggests both naivety and authority: the holy fools of their Lordships House. This Bishop (of Hereford), protesting his dissociation from every group — the Opposition, the hooligan tendency, the Eurosceptics, the anti-PR peers — insisted that he was still "deeply unhappy" about the Bill. He would vote against it.

So it was God versus Daddy. God won. But Daddy will be back.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

TUC sees Blair over fears of betrayal

Jill Sherman and Christine Buckley on confrontation at Downing Street

ANGRY union leaders warned Tony Blair last night not to bow to employers' demands to water down legislation on recognition rights.

A delegation led by John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, met the Prime Minister at Downing Street to challenge him over reports that he was about to agree to a series of changes which would make it more difficult for unions to secure recognition.

Legislation which is to be included in the Queen's Speech next week centres on giving unions recognition rights if 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour. It also allows automatic recognition without a ballot if the union membership already covers 50 per cent of workers.

Unions fear that Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, are about to accept a request by employers that members should have joined a union for at least three months before they can be counted for automatic recognition.

Employers are also pressing for Mr Blair to agree that union members would have to show that they wanted their unions to represent them in collective negotiations over pay and conditions. This could be done by asking members to tick a box on a piece of paper or through a further ballot.

Employers claim many workers would now be reluctant to hand bargaining over to unions, though they would wish them to represent them over disciplinary issues. The Prime Minister assured unions that no decisions had been taken and there would be further meetings between the TUC and the Government before any final agreement.

As he left the meeting, Mr Monks said that unions had

expressed their "strong concerns about recent reports that the Fairness at Work White Paper was being watered down and our opposition to some employers' attempts to make the details unworkable".

In what was described as a "business-like" meeting which lasted for nearly an hour, union chiefs accused Mr Blair of reneging on what was agreed last May after tough negotiations between employers and unions. Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, who is thought to be resisting changes to the White Paper, reassured NEC members earlier yesterday that there was no question that any changes would be in "breach of the spirit of the White Paper".

Union leaders, including traditionally loyalist bosses, believe that the Government has caved in to headline calls from the Confederation of British Industry which has toughened its stance since Sir Clive Thompson, the outspoken chief executive of Rentokil Initial, became president.

At a recent Trade and Industry Select Committee hearing, Mr Mandelson, made his first public admission that union members would have to prove a commitment in their membership — the expected three-month qualifying period. Although he is later said to have told backbench MPs that he regretted going so far and had only meant all options were open, the Government is expected to back employers' calls for a qualifying period.

Unions fear it will give unscrupulous employers the opportunity to sack people before they reach the three-month mark. This is especially feared in industries such as building, contracting and services, where there is a high turnover of staff.



The Prince with new black recruits at the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday

Prince 'knew persecuted feeling'

By Claudia Joseph

THE Prince of Wales told a group of young black Army recruits yesterday that he had encountered prejudice during his career in the Services. Comparing the problems he suffered as a royal with the racism that he had felt like an outsider during his five years in the RAF and Royal Navy.

His revelations came during an informal chat with the new ethnic minority recruits of the Household Cavalry at the Army Training Regiment in Pirbright, Surrey. Donovan Mowatt, 19, who spoke to the Prince, said: "He was eager to know if we'd suffered racism. He said he understood because he had problems himself by who he was. He told me how he stuck out as being different because he was royal."

James Taylor, 20, said: "He seemed keen to know if we'd been pressurised to join up, and had we really wanted to do it because we wanted to? I told him it was like being in a big family and we have a lot of support. We're all part of the team and I haven't had any problems."

The drive to recruit more ethnic minorities into the Armed Forces began two years ago after a highly critical report from the Commission for Racial Equality of the Household Cavalry and concern by the Prince at the low number of ethnic minority guards outside Buckingham Palace or taking part in Trooping the Colour.

Now the Household Division, which consists of the Household Cavalry and the Footguards, has increased its ethnic minority recruits from 12 to 40, out of 3,500, and has set itself a target of 200 by 2000.

The Commission for Racial Equality said: "Even though he himself will never experience anything like young black squaddies in the Guards, at least [his experience] will enable him to relate to it."

Consumers turn backs on modified foods

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A GLOOMY assessment of the future for genetically modified foods in Britain has been made by an adviser to one of the world's big biotechnology firms.

In a confidential report to Monsanto, the US-based multinational, he argues that public disquiet over such crops and foods is deepening rather than evaporating.

The report comes in the wake of a £1 million advertising campaign by the company, whose genetically altered soya and other crops have been a key target of opponents. The campaign is aimed at presenting the science behind these novel products to boost public confidence.

The report, written this autumn, states: "The latest survey shows an ongoing collapse of public support for biotechnology and GM foods. At each point in this project, we keep thinking that we have reached the low point and that public thinking will stabilise. But we apparently have not reached that point."

The report, written by Stan Greenberg, an American polling adviser to President Clinton, Tony Blair and Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, argues that public opposition to gene-altered foods and crops is indeed accelerating.

He has found that the number of people in Britain who believe gene-modified ingredients are unacceptable has "skyrocketed" from 25 per cent last year to 44 per cent now. The number saying they are acceptable has fallen from 33 per cent to 25 per cent over the year.

The report, which was leaked to Greenpeace, claims that among European countries biotechnology and Monsanto itself face their toughest opposition in Britain.

A spokesman for Monsanto yesterday confirmed the accuracy of the leaked report.

Taxpayer to fund advisers' pensions

By Valerie Elliott
WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR has approved an expensive pensions perk for the 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers brought into his Government on top of their inflation-busting pay increases.

It is the first time the Government has allowed taxpayers' money to be used as contributions to the pensions of the ranks of ministerial "bag-carriers" and is a significant change to their contracts.

But last night the precise size of the new fund was not known. Mr Blair has declared that the total cost of political advisers is £3.6 million, double that for aides working for John Major's administration. The pensions may explain the hefty increase.

The precise breakdown of cash for pensions has not been disclosed but the Government told MPs a maximum of up to 16 per cent of a special adviser's salary can be used to fund a pension. The money can be paid into an existing or a new occupational pension scheme, or a personal one.

The change of policy was sneaked out to MPs in guidance placed in the Commons library outlining the pay structure for special advisers.

Under the Conservative Government political aides were not allowed a pensions contribution funded by the taxpayer.

MPs were also given details of the new pay bands for special advisers — Band AQ is from £26,000 to £45,000, Band B £40,000 to £60,000 and Band C £54,000 to £76,056.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers promised bonuses

David Blunkett has promised to give thousands of teachers bonuses in reward for good performance. However, he admitted that the criteria for attaining the pay awards may put many with family commitments off the scheme.

The Education Secretary said it was crucial that teachers' pay structure be brought into line with other industries. Speaking to a conference organised by the Fabian Society yesterday, Mr Blunkett said he hoped a "very substantial number" of teachers would benefit from the proposals to be announced in a Green Paper within a month, but refused to give more details. He said unions would not strike after seeing the proposals.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said he was "deeply disappointed" after Mr Blunkett ruled out an overall increase in teachers' pay.

Doctor loses

A doctor who saved the life of a fellow passenger and then sent a £540 bill to the airline has had his claim thrown out of court. Dr John Stevens, 46, a consultant psychotherapist and psychiatrist, came to the aid of a woman who fell ill on an American Airlines flight to Heathrow last year.

Judges' training

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has written to every full-time judge in England and Wales to alert them to an "extensive" training programme being planned for judges on the Human Rights Act, which has "profound implications". The Act received Royal Assent on November 9.

CSA charm drive

The Child Support Agency is to embark upon a charm offensive to improve its image. It is recruiting new staff with proven "life skills", Faith Boardman, the chief executive, told MPs yesterday that the agency had traditionally relied too much on employing people with academic qualifications.

Award for writer

Michael Evans, the Defence Editor of *The Times*, was presented with the Desmond Western Maritime Media Award for his coverage of Royal Navy issues in the Strategic Defence Review. The award is for "the most constructive contribution to maritime affairs as they affect Britain".

Legal bill dispute

A man has won the right in the Court of Appeal to challenge a £2,600 legal bill from a law firm that had his affairs handled by a clerk instead of a solicitor. Stuart Filbrow was horrified to learn that the woman from *Pearless & Rougement of East Grinstead* was not even a legal executive.

Good news

Fears over the "dumbing down" of news may be unfounded. "Serious" news stories covered in early evening bulletins by the BBC, Sky and ITN have risen from 32 per cent in 1993 to 69 per cent today, according to a report by Goldsmith's College and the University of Westminster.

Survival of the littlest

Even the smallest company needs secure back-up for its computer systems. That's where the new HP Colorado 8GB tape drive comes in. Now you can have faster and more data storage space than ever before. They're the essential survival kit that every ambitious company should invest in to secure their future. All for as little as £80. For more information contact HP.

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Carey warns on school reform

Church fears education revamp will stifle its voice, Ruth Gledhill reports

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, gave a warning last night of a potential clash between Church and State over threats to the Church of England's influence on education.

Dr Carey, outlining his strategy for the strengthening of the country's 5,000 Anglican schools, warned that government proposals to reform local government could weaken the Church's influence in schools.

Church leaders place particular value on the importance of a Christian education in contributing to the development of a child's moral ethos, and they are determined to stop proposals to remove church representatives from local authority education committees, and place them on "scrutiny committees".

Addressing the general synod at Church House, Westminster, Dr Carey described the government's consultation paper, *Modern Local Government*, as "one area of potential conflict" in the future.

Dr Carey said: "While the government has been receptive to many of our views about education, there is I fear the possibility — I put it no higher — of some of the shine being taken off that understanding."

"As currently envisaged in the consultation document on modern local government, the voice of the Church could be weakened."

Education committees are made up of elected members and co-opted church representatives with voting rights. Bishops are now concerned because the local government consultation document fails to guarantee the continuation of these voting rights.

However, a spokesman for the department of environment, transport and the regions said that under the proposals, religious organisations would continue to be full voting members of local authority committees. But in future, they could be on the new "scrutiny committees" which would give them a "wider, more dynamic role".

Dr Carey spoke as the synod voted to set up a commission to look into the future of church schools, described as "popular and oversubscribed" in a recent church report. Dr Carey said that the education offered by church schools was so good that demand consistently exceeded supply. One reason, he said, was the good academic results achieved by church schools. Another was that they also nurtured the heart and soul.

"This unified and coherent approach is clearly appreciated by many parents," Dr Carey said.

"They see the kind of education we offer as right for their children, even though in some cases they may not regard themselves as Christian or religious at all."

□ The Church of England will soon acknowledge the existence of Leeds for the first time in its diocesan nomenclature. The synod voted to change the name of the diocese of Ripon to Ripon and Leeds.

PUMP STATION.

A new £4m pumping system installed on the Liverpool underground line means an end to flooding and far less disruption to services. www.railtrack.co.uk

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habited by the inner light, but they convey a trembling intensity which suggests both the force of their Lordship and the opposition of the Holy Spirit. This Bishop of Hereford, protesting his disapproval from every group — the Opposition, the hooligan lobby, the Euro-sceptic anti-PR peers — insisted that he was still "deeply unhappy" about the Bill. He would vote against it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers promised bonuses

David Blumenthal has promised to give thousands of teachers bonuses in reward for their performance. However, he has ruled out the criteria for awarding the bonuses with family members of the scheme. The Education Secretary said it was crucial that the bonuses were not seen as a reward for those who were better than average. Mr Blumenthal said he would not be giving bonuses to teachers who were just doing their job. He would be giving bonuses to those who were doing it well.

Doctor loses

A doctor has lost his job after being found guilty of gross negligence manslaughter. The doctor, who worked at a hospital, was found guilty of causing the death of a patient. He was sentenced to a suspended sentence.

judges training

Judges are to receive training on how to deal with cases involving children. The training will focus on the needs of young witnesses and the importance of protecting their identities.

ds USA charm drive

A charity drive in the USA has raised money for the purchase of new police cars. The drive was organized by a local community group and was very successful.

awards for

Awards for the best in the industry were presented at a ceremony. The winners were praised for their hard work and dedication.

award for

An award for the best in the industry was presented to a deserving recipient. The award was given in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

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Man who would be king digs up a traffic island

WHEN a man called Stuart Pendragon walked into his local civic offices and said he was a long-lost brother of the Prince of Wales and needed permission to dig up a traffic island to recover buried treasure, what did the council chief do? He gave it to him.

Council chief regrets letting a local eccentric dig for treasure, reports Simon de Bruxelles

marched into the council offices in the town last week boasting of his royal links and claiming that the late Dodi Fayed had buried the money in a metal box for him in 1990.

from various people including the police, and in a bid to placate him, I decided to dictate him a very short note saying that he had got permission to dig the hole.



Stuart Pendragon in the hole in Glastonbury. He was given permission to dig by the council's chief executive

Airman 'lured women into film trap'

By Gillian Harris Scotland Correspondent

AN AIRMAN secretly filmed women as they undressed for photographic portraits at an RAF base, a court martial was told yesterday.

Man murdered judo opponent who had offered him a home



Beverley Price: she had defeated killer at judo

A MAN who strangled a woman judo opponent who had proved too skilful for him in club combat was jailed for life for murder yesterday.

formerly of Kidderminster, a temporary home in her Worcester flat when his parents threw him out for stealing cash from them to fund a gambling addiction.

for Hereford United ladies and helped run a Baptist youth club, put up a desperate battle to save her life.

her home. He withdrew £400 using her credit card and spent it gambling on fruit machines in a Worcester arcade.

ble it away, Roberts claimed that he had lost his self-control because of provocation. But Mr Smith said: "He remembered the prison way he tightened the ligature. He was master of his own mind."

The court martial also watched some of the video footage. Senior Airframesman Carter denies eight charges of disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind contrary to the Air Force Act of 1955. He had been due to leave the service in April this year, but his departure was put on hold because the court-martial proceedings were under way. The case continues today.

Hired gunman gets life for killing boy, 5, in drug feud

By Russell Jenkins

A HIRED gunman who shot and killed a five-year-old boy in a bungled ambush as the child walked hand in hand with his stepfather was jailed for life yesterday.



Guilty men: David Hargreaves, left, and Paul Seddon

wounded him. You brought death to an innocent little boy who had the misfortune of holding hands with your target at the time you opened fire.

Child born into a deadly world

By Russell Jenkins

DILLON Hull was born into a world where heroin is the drug of choice and people are willing to kill for it. His stepfather, John Bates, was a small-time dealer and his mother Jane Hull, an addict.



Dillon Hull was looking forward to McDonald's

methadone. She told the court that a bullet had smashed through their front room earlier on the day Dillon had died. She said that she had tried to ring the police but had been stopped by Bates.

er son, Codie. He was born addicted to heroin. Her father, Robert, said: "She started losing weight at an incredible rate and became very moody and irritable. It became obvious she was taking heroin. I think the social services went around after Jane became a registered addict, but her home was always spotless and Dillon clean and tidy, so they probably saw nothing wrong."

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Parkinson drug banned after liver deaths

A DRUG for treating Parkinson's disease has been withdrawn after three patients died of liver disease.

The European Commission requested yesterday that members states suspend the use of Tasmar, made by Roche. It has not been withdrawn in the United States, where the Food and Drug Administration takes the view that, in a condition as serious as Parkinson's, some side-effects are a tolerable price to pay for the drug's benefits.

The decisions follow cases of "rare and unexpected adverse events", including three deaths from a sudden and severe form of hepatitis, all linked to use of the drug. The dead patients were from Switzerland and North America.

About 5,000 of Britain's 120,000 Parkinson's sufferers have been using Tasmar, which is prescribed because it enhances the effect of other medicines. The company was aware that liver damage was one side-effect of Tasmar, and recommended that liver function should be monitored for the first six months of use.

Roche and the Parkinson's Disease Society yesterday advised users to consult their doctors, not simply to stop taking

Nigel Hawkes reports on a scare that has divided opinion in EU and America

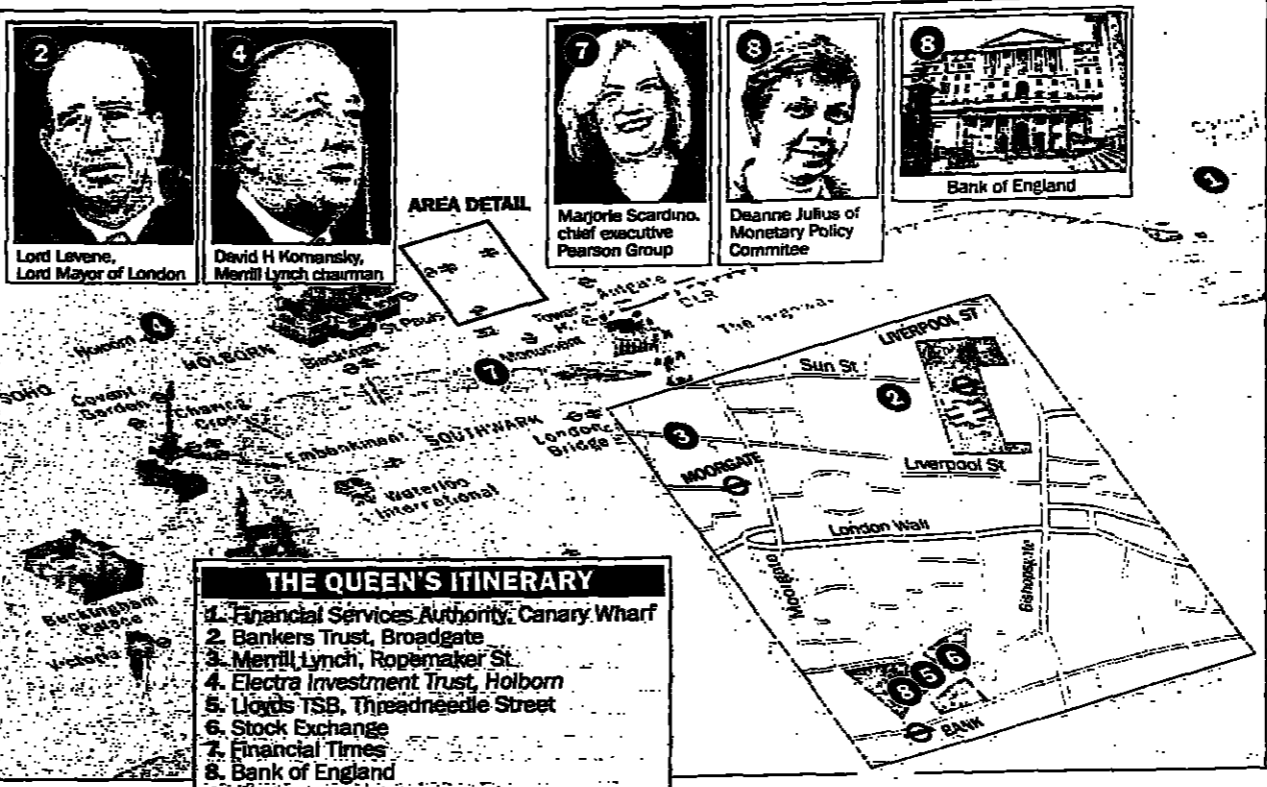
about the normal incidence of the disease? In this case it appears to be more than we would have expected so we have to assume that Tasmar is actually associated with hepatitis, and we have to take action.

"The Roche position was that relabelling was all that was necessary, but the European Union decided to suspend the licence."

There is hot competition among drug companies to produce effective treatments for Parkinson's, a progressive disease which causes shaking, muscle stiffness, and slowness of movement. It is caused by the shortage of dopamine, a chemical messenger, in the part of the brain which controls movement.

The condition can be treated with levodopa drugs which raise the levels of dopamine, but the effectiveness of these drugs wears off in time. Sometimes their effectiveness can be restored by prescribing drugs which blocks the enzyme which breaks down levodopa. Tasmar was the first such drug to be licensed in Britain.

A Tasmar helpline staffed by health professionals, on 0800 328 3202, has been set up for anyone concerned about the drug.



Queen is in the counting house

BY ROBIN YOUNG
THE Queen will pay tribute today to the City of London's international importance. Her extended visit with the Duke of Edinburgh, is an early example of the targeted approach that Buckingham Palace has been endeavouring to bring to the Queen's appointments.

Trust, behind Liverpool Street station. At the offices of Merrill Lynch, the Queen will meet staff working in foreign exchange, gilts and UK mergers and acquisitions. She will tour the debt trading floor and inspect the information technology centre for the company's European operations.

Lloyds TSB in Threadneedle Street, meeting those involved in personal banking, insurance, business banking, the Lloyds TSB Charitable Foundation and education. After that he will visit the Stock Exchange to meet staff and to view markets on computer screens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies after rail game

A schoolboy has died after being blown off a railway bridge by a 25,000-volt electric shock and run over by a train.

The unnamed 14-year-old and a friend had been playing in Birmingham on Monday afternoon when the accident happened. Police said that he had been dangling a wire cable over the track in Nechells and it apparently touched a power cable.

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The force of the voltage blew the boy off the bridge on to the tracks. Moments later he was hit by the train." The child was taken to Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, suffering from multiple injuries and died yesterday.

Lorry fire death

One person died and several others were injured when a lorry crashed into a petrol station in thick fog and caught fire. Staff at the Fina station on the A14 at Lolworth, Cambridgeshire, avoided an explosion by isolating fuel supplies.

Red Arrow crash

A Red Arrows pilot ejected safely from his Hawk jet before it crashed on the runway of RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire during a training exercise. He was trying to land the aircraft, which was destroyed. An inquiry has been started.

Damages denied

The footballer Kieran Brady has lost a £2 million damages claim against his club, Sunderland. The Court of Appeal ruled that the club doctor could not have been expected to diagnose the rare vascular condition that ended his career.

Envoy's bomb

Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on a wartime shell found in an ambassador's garden near London Zoo. Easa Saleh Al-Gurg, of the United Arab Emirates, his wife and staff were moved to safety.

Lowry sold

A painting by L. S. Lowry that had hung for 20 years in the school hall at Princess Helena College in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, sold for £298,500 at Phillips in London. The 1935 work, *May Day*, showed of children around a maypole.

Fast-lane mouse

The Evans Halshaw Porsche dealership in Little Aston, Staffordshire, found that a hole the size of a television screen in the cover of a convertible Porsche had been caused not by vandals, but by a mouse that had subsequently died.

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An air of victory on secret bypass

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN AIR of diesel-free contentment prevailed yesterday in Newbury as the town woke up to the knowledge that its £100 million bypass had been opened unannounced during the night.

Unlike its construction, the opening passed without the demonstrators who had turned the project into the biggest road protest in Britain. A police car carrying Tony Scutt, project director for the construction company Costain, led the way on to the dual-carriageway at 1.25am. It was swiftly followed by several heavy goods vehicles.

Within hours, workmen were honouring a council pledge to start pedestrianising the town centre. Ann Boardman, who lives on the through route which used to see up to 400 lorries an hour, said the air already smelt sweeter.

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Sailor dies after four-day battle against storms

British couple's dream voyage ended as their damaged yacht ran aground in New Zealand, reports Tim Jones

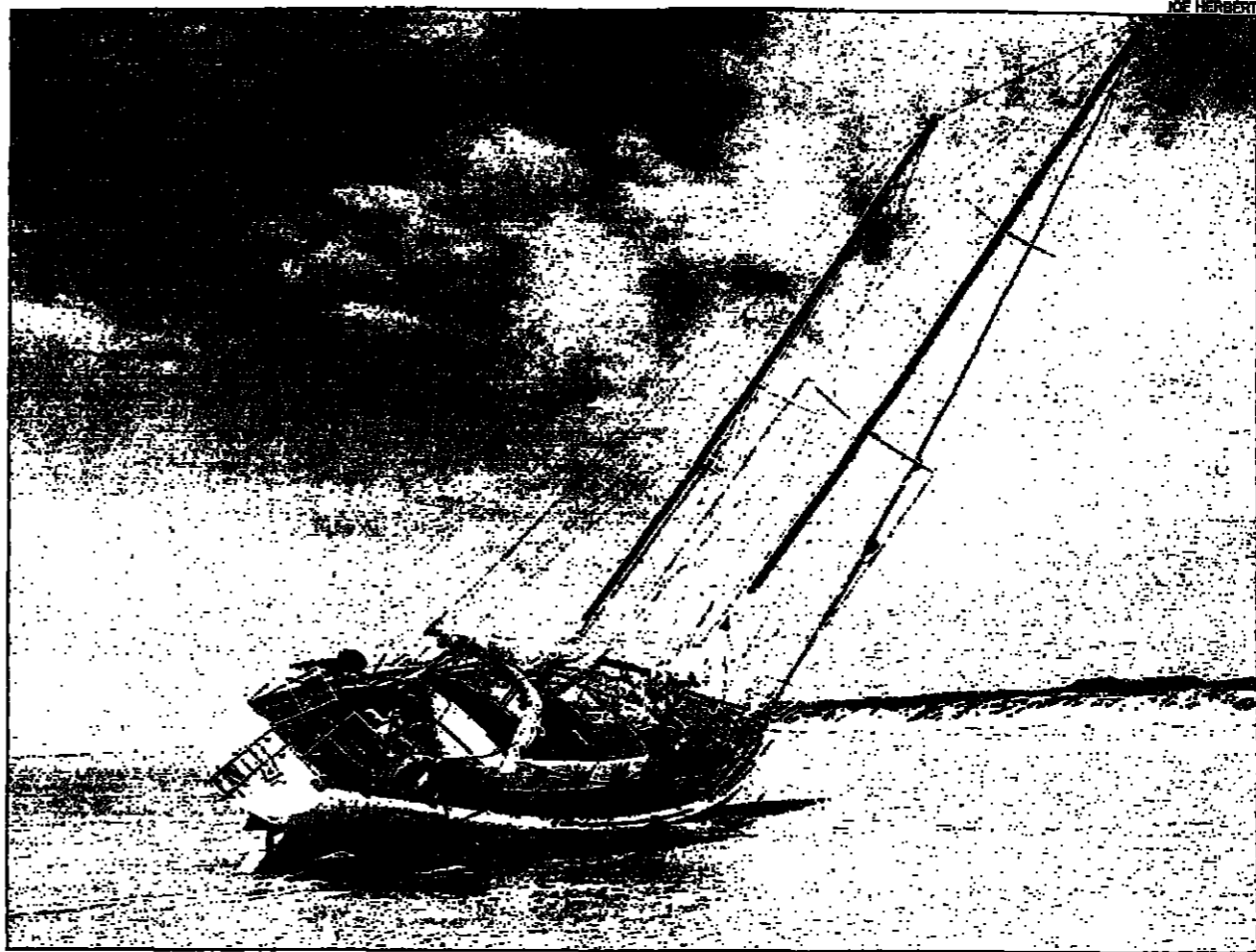
A BRITISH woman has been swept to her death off a remote stretch of the northern coast of New Zealand after she and her husband lost a four-day battle to steer their damaged 52ft yacht through stormy seas to safety.

The body of Anita Mary Dean, 52, from Hull, who suffered from multiple sclerosis, was found at Great Exhibition Bay, near the northern tip of New Zealand. Her husband, Roger, 53, was found alive, clinging to the wreckage of the yacht, which was washed up

on a beach near Everitts Creek at about 5pm on Monday, British time.

The couple, who had spent 3½ years sailing around the world, had been en route from Fiji to New Zealand last week when gale-force winds damaged the steering mechanism of their 18-tonne yacht, *Woody Goose*.

Senior Constable Shane Godinet, of Houhora Police, said that the couple had been exhausted after fighting the storm and had set a drag anchor to slow the vessel down



The *Woody Goose* lies stranded in Great Exhibition Bay. Mrs Dean fell overboard despite her safety harness



Anita and Roger Dean: sailed the world for three years

about five miles off the coast so that they could rest. When they awoke, however, winds were gusting at up to 40mph and they were drifting dangerously close to the shore. They tried and failed to start their vessel's engine, then to raise its main sail.

"The Deans slept for more than they had anticipated and woke to find that they were too close to the shore," he said. "The vessel's diesel engine failed to start and the couple fired two red distress flares at 5am, which were spotted by residents on the shore."

Coastguards, guided by two aircraft, tried to rescue the pair but were driven back by the conditions.

"An hour later, the yacht was found beached and shortly after, the body of Mrs Dean was recovered," Constable Godinet said.

He said that Mr Dean had told him that he had last seen his wife on the deck wearing a safety harness, but that moments later, when he looked again, she had gone and the harness was empty.

Sergeant Rogan Parker

said: "At the moment we don't know if the boat overturned or the woman fell overboard. We have been told that the woman was wearing a safety line during the emergency, but that somehow she became separated from it."

Constable Godinet said that Maori leaders in the area had placed a *tapu* on Great Exhibition Bay, marking the site as a sacred area out of respect for Mrs Dean.

Her body was taken to a

mortuary at Kaitiata, where a post-mortem examination is to be carried out.

The couple had left Britain more than three years ago, and were believed to have lived in New Zealand for some years before returning to Hull.

A local fisherman, Bill Hopkins, said that sea conditions in the area at the time of the accident were extremely poor. Her Crane, a harbourmaster, said that the coast had been buffeted by strong winds for

several days, and that conditions would have been terrifying aboard a yacht the size of *Woody Goose*.

Last night Bert Constable, one of the couple's neighbours in Hull, said: "They were a lovely couple. It had always been Roger's dream to go cruising around the world."

Another, Eric Ormrod, said: "I am very sorry. This has come as a shock. Their son, Mark, told us that they had run aground on Fiji not long

ago and they had been pulled off. He was going to show us some video footage taken of them this weekend."

It is believed that the Deans were members of the Humber Yawl Club. The *Woody Goose*, which was built in France in 1974, was powered by sail and a single screw. It had one deck and two masts.

The Registry of Pleasure Yachts in Gibraltar said that the vessel was listed as being owned by the couple.

Thirteen easy steps to surgery on the high seas

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

A WEEK ago Victor Zaykov was alone on a yacht in the South Atlantic with a life-threatening abscess on his elbow. Yesterday he was recovering at the Russian consulate in Cape Town, thanks to a solar-powered modem and a helpful doctor in suburban Boston.

Without anaesthetic — but after a 13-step procedure e-mailed to him in what remained of the daylight on which his computer link depended — the solo yachtsman used a scalpel to cut open and empty the abscess.

At the other end of the computer link was Daniel Carlin, on call from Boston for the Around Alone yacht race. He received the Russian's first message last Tuesday. "My right elbow does not look good," it went. "Some yellow spot in the middle of red and it feels like dead." The doctor requested further details. "All skin is glossy and shiny white," Zaykov replied.

Dr Carlin urgently typed out the 13 steps. "He had to set up a small operating theatre on his boat," he said yesterday. "I told him it would hurt a lot and, if it didn't, he wasn't doing it right. Had the abscess ruptured it would have set up a terrible infection."

Zaykov's final task was to stop the bleeding. He had failed to tell the doctor he had been taking aspirin, which prevented his blood clotting. By Thursday he wrote: "Have been sitting on the bloody cabin floor almost completely naked ... watching as my life drop by drop is leaving me."

Contacted by telephone yesterday, Zaykov, 50, a former commando in the Russian Army, told *The Times*: "I can laugh now, but for half an hour it was very, very bad. Death was my real concern."

With Dr Carlin's advice the bleeding eventually stopped. Zaykov's last message to Boston read: "The arm getting better. Very grateful to doctor. Yasykov had built his own boat and sailed it 7,500 miles from Sochi, on the Black Sea, to South Carolina for the start of the race.

Hunt for Nazi loot in Britain

BY DALYA ALBERGE

THE country's museums were asked yesterday to study the provenance of every object in their collections to ensure that there was nothing that could have been looted from victims of the Nazis.

Lord Janner of Braunstone, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said that any work of art acquired after 1945 that was found to have been stolen by the Nazis should be returned to the original owners or their family, if no one could be traced, it should be sold for the benefit of organisations that care for survivors.

He expressed dismay that so many victims had failed to regain their property — while the family of Himmler, head of the Gestapo and the SS, had apparently been able to hold on to stolen treasures — "on

the grounds that he wasn't a convicted war criminal". Himmler killed himself in captivity before he could be put on trial.

The trust's study, *Nazi Looted Art: Britain and Post-War Restitution*, published yesterday, draws on previously unseen files from the Public Record Office and points out that art plundered by the Third Reich was regarded by the Allies as the victors' legitimate war booty rather than the property of the victims from whom it had originally been seized.

In some cases, paintings ended up on the walls of Foreign Office buildings in London and the offices of the British post-war military government in Germany. Lord Janner called for an audit of the Armed Forces' collections.

The Allies agreed that all looted art was to be returned to the government of the

country from which it had originated. It was then up to individual states whether they then returned it to private owners. In some cases, the rules were broken for influential figures, but ordinary individuals got no help, say the authors, Stephen Ward and Ian Locke.

Documents that they uncovered show that Himmler's family appears to have been allowed to keep some of the collection he accumulated while in charge of the Third Reich's art looting. An inventory of works found in the Wewelsburg concentration camp includes 13 paintings, seven tapestries, 22 carpets and 11 gilt frames. In 1949 an official in the British zone of Germany ruled: "If any of the property cannot be identified as having been forcibly taken away from its former owner, it is not, prima facie, restitutable."

'The Spiral' seeks £75m

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DAY after the Victoria and Albert Museum's controversial and futuristic extension was approved, the museum's staff are facing the next big hurdle — finding £75 million to make it possible.

Gwyn Miles, the V&A's head of major projects, insisted that the museum was completely confident of being able to inspire sponsors. While acknowledging that the same few people were being "tapped by everyone under the sun", there were some donors who "may not have given

to other things". The museum is also likely to travel abroad in search of funds.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's planning and conservation committee voted on Monday night in favour of the design, which has been dismissed by some as "a spiral of crumpled boxes". A number of local residents have also decided it.

Ms Miles said, however, that a MORI poll of residents suggested that eight out of ten favoured it and would want to visit it once it opens, which is expected to be in 2004.

The V&A intends to position the controversial extension, known as *The Spiral*, between its existing Victorian galleries in South Kensington. It was designed by the American architect Daniel Libeskind as part of a project to provide more gallery space. The new building, which was rejected for National Lottery funding by the Millennium Commission, has 12,000 square metres of floor space on 12 floors, four of which are underground. The extension includes an underground auditorium and cinema.

The museum is a Grade I building and the work has to be done to ensure that the rest of the structure is safeguarded.

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NOVEMBER 18 1998

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies after rail game

A schoolboy has died after he was blown off a railway bridge by a 25,000-volt electric cable and run over by a train.

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A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The force of the voltage blew the boy's body on to the track. Moments later he was hit by the train. The child was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital where he suffered multiple injuries and died yesterday."

Lorry fire death

The driver died and three others were injured when a lorry crashed into a power line in a truck, lorry and car fire that killed a 19-year-old and injured a 19-year-old and a 19-year-old.

Red Arrow crash

A Red Arrow Hawk fighter jet crashed into the sea off the coast of Devon yesterday, killing the pilot.

Damages dealt

The court dealt with the damages claim in the case of the Red Arrow crash.

of ry ret

ISS

easy access range from Dolphin makes bathing pleasure not a chore

Robertson cuts swath through the TA

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

MANY of Britain's best-known regiments, such as the Green Howards, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, will be cut back in the restructured and reduced Territorial Army announced by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday.

The changes will more than halve the number of infantry battalions and force TA regiments into new-style amalgamated units.

After widespread criticism of Mr Robertson's proposal to cut the TA from its establishment figure of 59,000 to 40,000, as part of the Strategic Defence Review, he announced that he was restoring 1,200 to the manpower level.

No decision has been made on names for the 15 TA infantry regiments that will be created out of 33 battalions. That will be the responsibility of the Regular Army's Director of In-

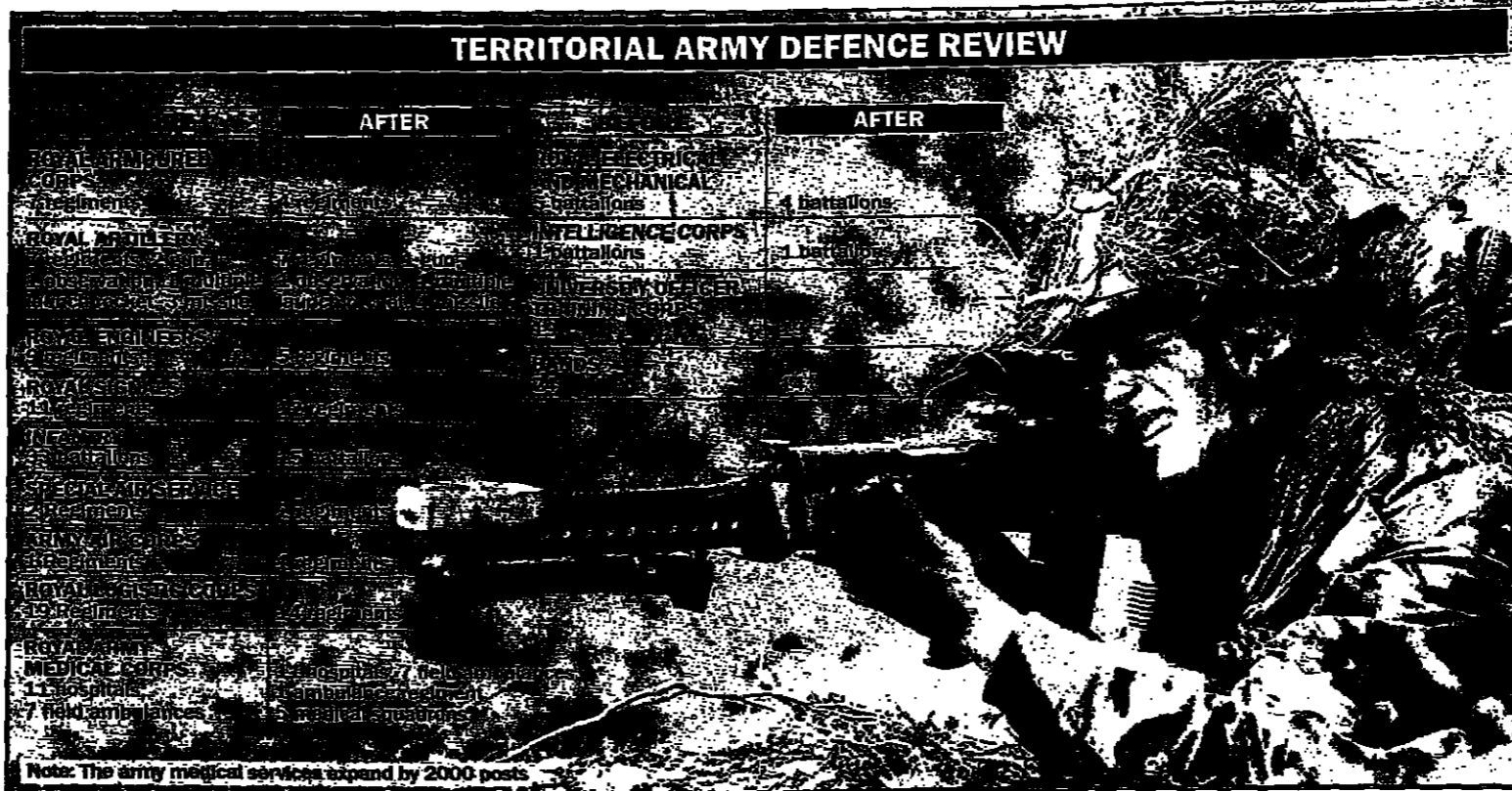
fantry, Mr Robertson promised that no cap badges would be lost, even though many battalions would be only company size — about 100 men.

He said that the new total of 41,200 did not represent as big a cut as had been suggested because the current strength of the TA was only 54,000. This meant the cut was only 13,000, "a modest reduction".

"We lose about that figure each year through natural wastage," Mr Robertson said at the Ministry of Defence. The cuts would save £70 million a year from the TA budget of £350 million.

He predicted that critics of his decision to cut the Territorials would be won round by his promise to convert them from their traditional image of "weekend warriors" to "a new, more heavyweight role".

Apart from the infantry battalions, the seven TA yeomanry regiments attached to the Royal Armoured Corps are to



Note: The army medical services expand by 2000 posts

be cut to four. But for the first time they will be given tanks to train on, including the Challenger 2. The Royal Artillery TA regiments, which are to remain at seven, will be allowed for the first time to fire the Army's new AS90 gun.

Instead of training to defend the United Kingdom from a Soviet invasion — its role in the Cold War — the TA would work with the regulars as "a wholly integrated force" in many types of operations.

He even promised that he would be prepared to call up the TA "in formed units if need be", rather than as attachments to regular units, but

only in situations "that fall short of a direct threat to the UK, such as the Gulf War".

The minor concession on overall manpower came after strong representations to Mr Robertson by some of his Cabinet colleagues, in particular Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary. He was worried that a thinning of the TA in outlying areas of Scotland would be damaging if it were needed for civil emergencies.

In a leaked letter to Mr Robertson, he said the TA might be needed to help to run public services affected by computer shutdowns in 2000 — the so-called millennium bug. Mr

Robertson said he had added the 1,200 "operational, not political reasons". The extra personnel would be paid for within the overall army budget. He would not have to ask the Treasury for more money.

Under his plans, announced in the Commons, 87 drill centres will be sold to raise £40 million. The closed centres would be spread as evenly as possible across the country.

Some of the biggest changes are: the two TA battalions of The Parachute Regiment, 4 Para and 10 Para, to be reduced to one battalion, consisting of three companies —

about 360 men; the two battalions of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment also to be cut to one battalion of three companies. Other TA regiments will lose one company, including the Staffordshire Regiment, the Royal Gloucestershire, the Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The Royal Regiment of Wales and the Royal Welch Fusiliers are to be combined to form a Welsh regiment. The TA's two SAS regiments are unaffected by the cuts.

Mr Robertson, fully supported yesterday by General Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, promised

that saleable drill centres used by the Army Cadets would stay open until other arrangements could be made. He announced an extra £12 million for the cadets and said they would not face any cuts.

He said that TA members facing redundancy would have new opportunities to serve in the regular forces or to join the volunteer reserves of the two other services — the Royal Naval Reserve, which is to increase from 3,300 to 3,850, and the Reserve Air Force, which will rise from 2,650 to 2,920.

Leading article, page 19

Arnhem Paras could hold out no more

Michael Horsnell on a sad day for proud unit

THE 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, whose proud history stems back to the Second World War battle over the bridge at Arnhem, will cease to exist as a battalion in London.

"It's like having the family split up," said its spokesman, Major Robert Partridge. "There's a great sadness among those who have trained together. But the guys will probably be found jobs. No one turns away such well-trained airborne troops as the Paras."

The cuts announced yesterday will mean that the combined number of 10 Para and 4 Para will be reduced from 650 to 325.

The battalion's finest hour came

when, surrounded and vastly outnumbered by German SS Panzer troops, it made an heroic stand at Oosterbeek, three miles west of the main bridge at Arnhem. For four days, without resupply or reinforcement, 60 men and two officers — all that remained of the battalion — held out against staggering odds before withdrawing across the lower Rhine.

Of the 800 men who dropped into The Netherlands, only 35 answered the roll call on the south bank eight days later. Colonel Lionel Queripel

was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallant action at Oosterbeek.

The battalion was reformed in 1947 as the 10th (City of London) Parachute Battalion TA. The unit's soldiers take great pride in their nickname, London's Paras.

Each September the battalion returns to Arnhem and the troops parachute onto Ginkel Head, the wartime drop zone, where they mount a guard at the town's annual memorial service to the British and Polish dead.

Today the battalion provides para-

chute-trained soldiers to reinforce regular parachute battalions in 5 Airborne Brigade. Although a Territorial Army unit, it has many soldiers who wear Northern Ireland, Bosnia and UN medals, having served six-month attachments to regular army battalions.

In 1996 10 Para provided more than 100 soldiers to support 5 Airborne Brigade on Exercise Purple Star in the United States.

To ensure readiness, the battalion regularly conducts training exercises in parachute assault and airfield seizure procedures in addition to conventional infantry training.



The TA's 10 Para in training: they will soon cease to exist

3½ years' jail for groping doctor

BY RICHARD DUCE

POLICE yesterday praised the bravery of eight women who had the courage to relive sexual ordeals inflicted upon them by their family doctor and to see him jailed for 3½ years.

For 17 years Gerald Walmsley had preyed on young female patients at surgeries in Yorkshire and Kent as he subjected them to indecent assaults on his consulting room couch.

Many of his victims were too scared to report the incidents but, once one woman voiced her alarm, it opened up a floodgate of concern about treatment by the 50-year-old father of two adopted daughters.

After a jury at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday convicted Walmsley on ten charges of indecent assault, Judge David Griffiths told him: "An indecent assault on a young woman is a serious matter in any case, but in your case the victims were all young and vulnerable female patients. This involves a grave breach of trust."

Walmsley simply bowed his head as sentence was passed and his wife, Yvonne, stared straight ahead as he was led from the dock. His career is now in tatters and it is expected he will be struck off by the General Medical Council. The judge also ordered that he placed indefinitely on the register for sexual offenders.

None of the victims was in court but each was contacted by police to tell them that Walmsley had been jailed. Many of them had been reduced to tears as they gave evidence against a man whom they believed they should have trusted.

During his trial the court heard how the doctor had carried out the assaults between 1980 and 1997. Five of his victims, two of whom were assaulted twice, were patients at his Lime Hill Road surgery in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The other three were patients at the Yeardon health centre, near Leeds, where he first practised between 1976-86.

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Silver turn for com

I'm hooked. cyber gran

"As I hurtled through space, thought kept circling my mind - even of this capsule was supplied the lowest bid



Silver surfers turn off TV for computer

By Alan Copps

BRITONS are increasingly turning off the television and turning to the home computer, which can now be found in one in four households.

Among the keenest are computer users over 60m, who have earned the nickname "silver surfers" by spending ten hours a week at the keyboard, three hours longer than the average. They are likely to spend more time than younger relatives talking about computers.

New surveys show that more than a million adults have used the Internet for the first time in the past six months, bringing the total to 7 million or 15 per cent of the adult population. There are a further million users aged 14 to 17, including users at work and school.

I'm hooked, says 'cyber granny'

By Adrian Lee

MASTERING the language of computing at the age of 64 was a daunting task, confessed Lady Wright, widow of Sir Roland Wright, a former chairman of ICI.

to see if I have received new e-mail. It might just be a few lines, but you never know when it will arrive. I think everyone should have a go.

ONLINE OVER-60s

What the silver surfers do on their computers

Word processing	88
Personal finances/accounts	36
Play games	34
Surf the Net	25
Use spreadsheets	23
Use databases	23
Reference	20
E-mail	18
Work	2
Study	2

Sources: Microsoft Computer Age Report

younger users on handling their personal finances and home accounts on the PC. The proportion who play computer games — about a third — is the same as among mothers in PC-owning households.

More than a quarter of households said that help with children's homework was a major use, more popular among girls (42 per cent) than boys (29 per cent). Children in Newcastle and Birmingham are twice as likely to do homework at the keyboard as those in London or Glasgow.

Microsoft also identified the rise of the multiple computer household. Of those owning PCs, 20 per cent had two and 8 per cent at least three.

Online shopping, Interface, page 3



Sir Geoff yesterday: "The decoration will take pride of place with my World Cup medal"

Hats off to hero of 1966 as Hurst is knighted

GEOFF HURST was knighted by the Queen yesterday and said that the ceremony was more demanding than scoring his hat-trick in England's 4-2 World Cup win over West Germany in 1966.

Sir Geoff, 56, said outside Buckingham Palace: "I didn't expect to be nervous today, but when the day came I was, whereas 32 years ago, playing at Wembley came like second nature to me."

Sir Geoff, who was accompanied by his wife, Judith, and two of his daughters, Claire, 33, and Charlotte, 21, is the only footballer to have scored a hat-trick in a World Cup final. "It was almost like full circle because it was the Queen who presented the England team with the trophy at Wembley in 1966," he said.

Sir Geoff, who is helping to set up the FA Premier League Hall of Fame, added: "The knighthood decoration will take pride of place beside my World Cup medal." He received his knighthood for services to football.

Barry Norman, the television presenter, was awarded

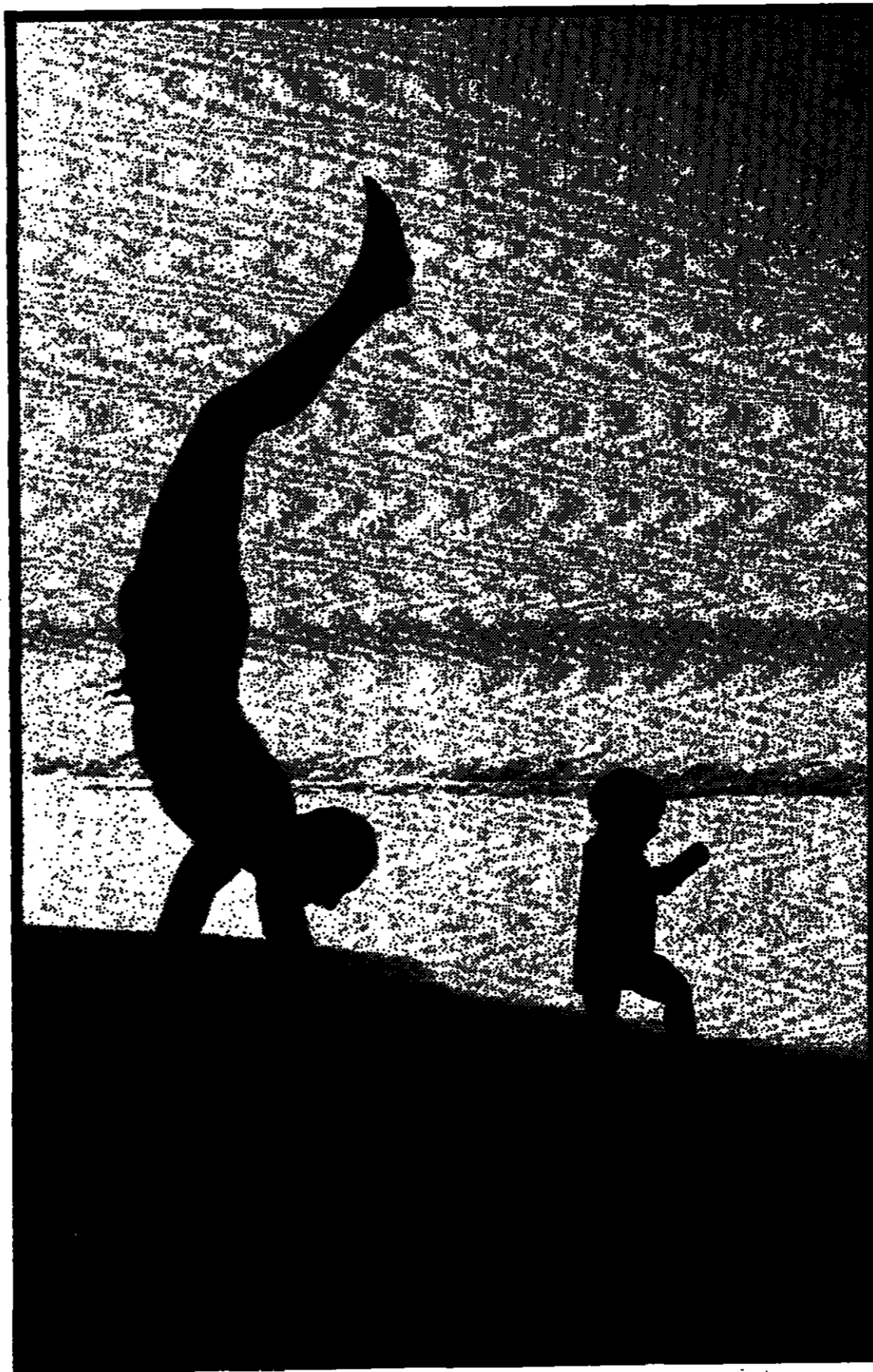
the insignia of the CBE for services to broadcasting and the film industry.

Mr Norman, 65, who was accompanied by his wife, Diana, and daughters Emma and Samantha recently left the BBC after 26 years to become film critic for Sky Television. He said: "The Queen asked me how long I had been doing my job and I told her it was a very long time. I wanted to ask her if she ever watched my show, but I didn't get a chance."



A CBE award for Barry Norman: and why not?

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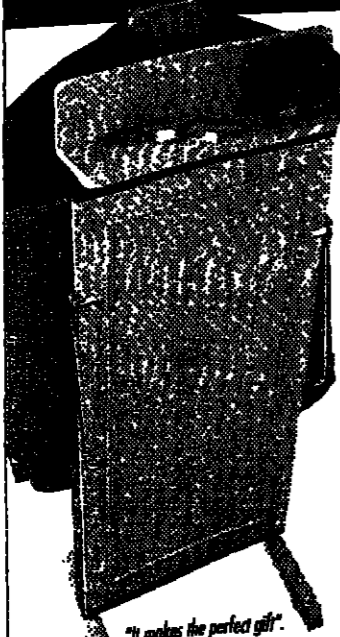
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John Glenn



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies after rail game

A schoolboy has died after he was thrown off a railway bridge by a 25,000 volt electric shock and run over by a train.

The unnamed 14-year-old Birmingham boy was playing a game on a bridge over a railway line when the accident happened. Police said that the boy had been standing on a wire that was not supposed to be there and it apparently touched the power cable.

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The boy was playing a game on the bridge and he was not supposed to be there. He was standing on a wire that was not supposed to be there and it apparently touched the power cable."

Lorry fire death

A lorry driver died and two others were injured when a lorry carrying a large quantity of petrol caught fire and exploded at the end of a road in the town of Lymington, Hampshire.

Red Arrow

A Red Arrow jet was seen flying over the town of Lymington, Hampshire, on the day of the lorry explosion.

Damages

The lorry explosion caused significant damage to the surrounding area, including the destruction of several buildings.

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Heads in clash with minister on drugs

Susie Steiner reports on reactions to Morris's support for leniency

HEAD teachers yesterday criticised the Government's call for leniency over pupils caught with drugs as Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, defended her advice not to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach.

Ms Morris, who on Monday told the Girls' Schools Association that possession of drugs should not automatically lead to exclusion, caused disquiet among some heads who felt that she had created a conflicting message for pupils.

King Edward VI Camp Hill boys' school in Birmingham, one of the country's top grammar schools, has had two or three drug-related incidents with expulsions in the past ten years. Mervyn Brooker, the headteacher, said: "At this school there is a very hard line. My governors expect a hard line and the students accept that."

"I am concerned about what Estelle Morris is saying. Heads need discretion on particular circumstances, but I certainly wouldn't want the Government to tie my hands and say, 'You can't exclude.' We take the view that, by and large, students know what they are doing and have to accept the consequences."

Harrow School operates a zero-tolerance policy and several drug incidents in the past three years have resulted in expulsion. Nicholas Bonford, the Head Master, said: "Our standard policy is that, if any boy is found to be in possession of unauthorised drugs or to have used them during term time, he must expect to be required to leave." Ms Morris



Morris: remarks caused disquiet among heads

was criticised by David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, for "undercutting the position" of head teachers.

Downing Street defended Ms Morris's remarks. The Prime Minister's spokesman said: "She was saying that the Government has a very tough approach to drugs, not just in schools but at all levels of society, but was making the obvious point that head teachers have to be allowed some flexibility and that she would support them over the decisions they have to take."

Although few schools practise zero tolerance, they are universally strict on drug-dealing. Heads fiercely maintain the right to set their own anti-drugs policies. St Bede's College, a Roman Catholic independent in Manchester, has had two fifth-form boys expelled and 18 suspended for drugs in three years. John Byrne, the Headmaster, said: "The boys were expelled because they brought drugs into the school and sold them."

"At the same time, we gave a 24-hour amnesty for people who had been tempted to purchase or try out cannabis and those people were suspended but not expelled. I reserve the right to expel pupils for drugs, but I wouldn't wish to tie myself down to do it every time."

Gordonstoun School said that not every drugs incident resulted in expulsion. "There have been temporary suspensions," said Richard Oliver, its development director.

"We would regard each offence individually. Anyone dealing in hard drugs would almost certainly be asked to leave."

Ramsgate School, in Kent, which is fighting its way up from the bottom of the GCSE league tables, has had one drugs incident in the past three years but did not expel. Brian Lippitt, the Headmaster, said: "We operate a policy which is sympathetic to what Estelle Morris is doing. If we were to find a child with a small amount of cannabis and there is no evidence that the child has been selling or encouraging other youngsters to use, then the child would be handed to the youth services for help and advice. He may well have a short-term exclusion but not a permanent one."



Searching for the right chemistry: the posters, from left, of Kerry Lomas, an airline pilot; Jo da Silva, a civil engineer; and Farzana Patel, a forensic scientist

Poster women complain of science fiction

WOMEN scientists were asked to dress up in crop-tops, tight dresses and trainers to pose for a government campaign to make science appeal to teenage girls (Victoria Fletcher writes).

The six women, who were chosen as role models because they had managed to succeed in their male-dominated fields, were asked to put on skimpy clothes they did not normally wear. The posters, emblazoned with such

streetwise slogans as "Making H2O flow... I'm into it" and "Party on!" are part of a campaign launched yesterday by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to make the "balding boffin" image of a science career more trendy.

On seeing the poster of herself yesterday, Farzana Patel, 26, an assistant forensic scientist, said she had been made to look half her age. She was asked by a

stylist to put on a tight, camouflage-print top with combat trousers and trainers, a look she would never normally choose. "I usually wear casual clothes — blouses and T-shirts — in work."

However, she said that if the image would make girls stop and read the posters, she did not mind that they were not a true representation of herself or her career. "We have to try and look human, not like people on white

lab coats who have no social lives." Other women featured in the posters include an airline pilot in a tight pink dress and an electrical engineer with a tracksuit, hooded top and Sporty Spice hairstyle.

At present, girls outperform boys at science GCSE, but only a small proportion continue science in the sixth form. Last year, only 21 per cent of A-level physics pupils were female.

Police take a more feminine blue line

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

NEW police officers are increasingly likely to be female, have a degree and join after trying other jobs, MPs were told yesterday. The average age of new officers is 26.

MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee, which is studying police training and recruitment, were told that women accounted for 27 per cent of the 7,500 new constables taken on each year by the 43 forces in England and Wales. But many still fail to complete their careers, often leaving to start families.

Only 16 per cent of the total police manpower of 127,000 officers are women. Five years ago the figure was 13 per cent.

Forces are making more use of job sharing, part-time working and career breaks. But the Association of Chief Police Officers forecast that it would take some years for the increase in women recruits to show in the staffing profile.

The MPs were also told that between 20 and 30 per cent of new recruits were graduates.



Dinosaur at giant

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Police take a more feminine blue line

Dinosaur skin found at giant nesting site

Thousands of eggs discovered in Patagonian mud, writes Nigel Hawkes

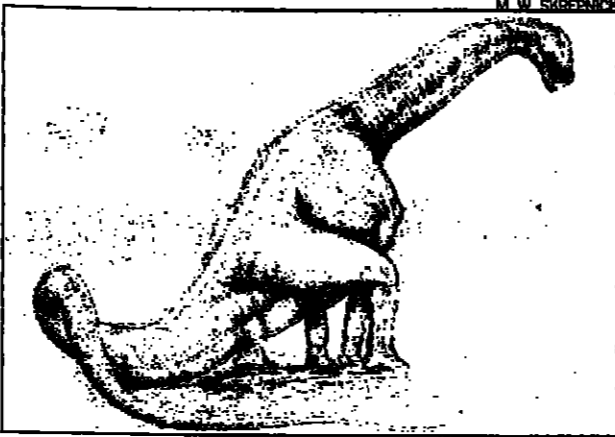
SCIENTISTS have for the first time discovered perfectly preserved baby dinosaur skin, fossilised in eggs at an ancient nesting site.

At the site in Patagonia, evidently used by large herds of dinosaurs 70 to 90 million years ago, thousands of eggs litter the ground so densely that it is almost impossible to walk across the site without crushing some of them.

A team led by Luis Chappé, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, found that dozens of the eggs still had unhatched dinosaurs inside them.

When opened, they revealed the bones of tiny embryos just a few inches long and, even more remarkably, perfectly preserved traces of skin. This is the first time the skin of baby dinosaurs has ever been seen.

The skin is scaly, like that of a modern lizard, and in one embryo a line of larger scales can be seen running across the creature's back, forming a



An impression of a titanosaur laying a clutch of eggs

stripe that ran down the backbone.

The species of dinosaur is difficult to identify from the embryos, but they appear to have been plant-eating creatures belonging to the group known as sauropods. These were the largest of the dinosaurs.

One embryo has 32 tiny pen-

cil-shaped teeth, a shape found in only one known dinosaur from this period, *Titanosaurus australis*. The remains of titanosaurs are common at the site in the "badlands" of Patagonia, so it seems very likely that the eggs came from this species.

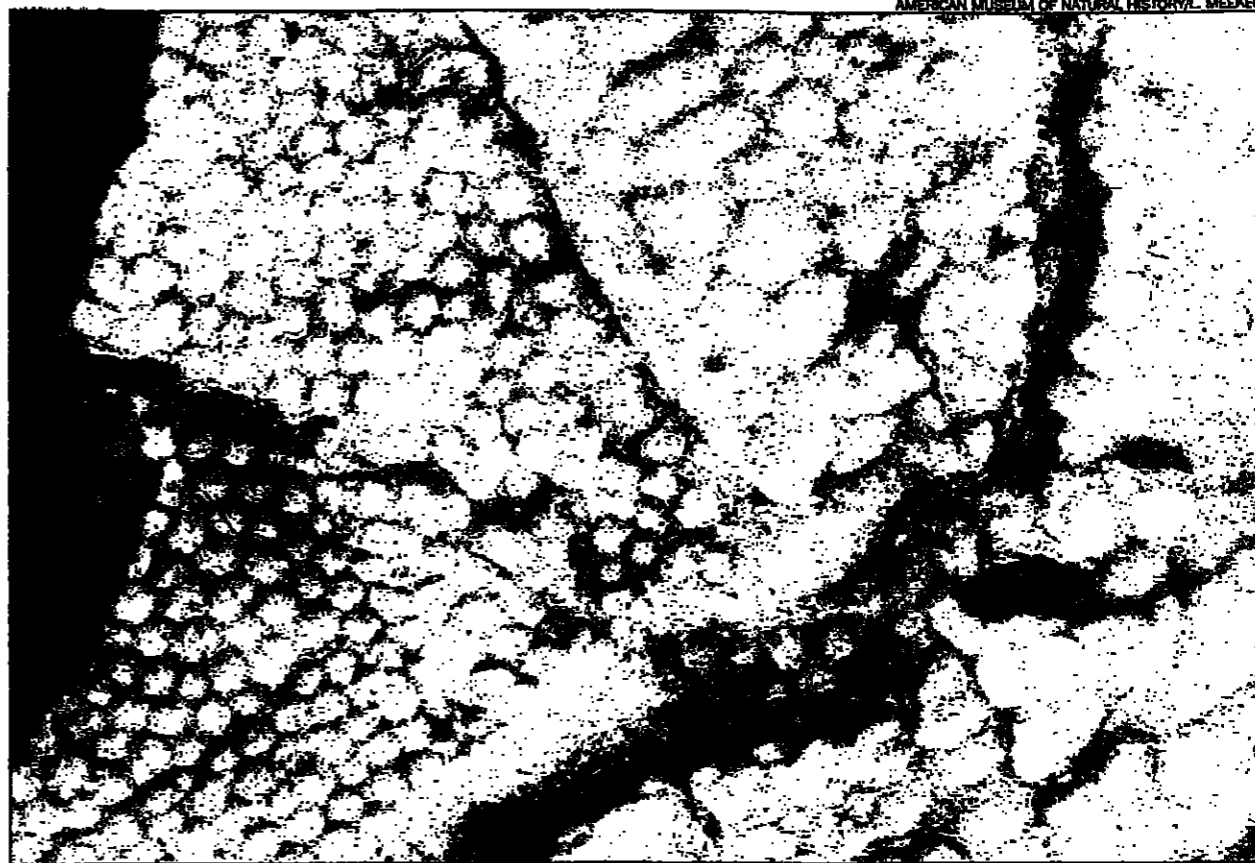
The clear patterns on the skin would eventually have de-

veloped into the bony, armoured plates carried by the adults. This growth pattern mirrors that of modern armoured lizards and crocodiles, whose young lack the bony patches found in adults, the team reports in *Nature*.

If they had hatched, the baby dinosaurs would have been about 15in long, and would have grown at great speed to an adult size of nearly 45ft. The eggs are so beautifully preserved, the team believes, because they were laid in the flood plain of ancient streams that overflowed from time to time, burying the eggs in a layer of mud.

This protected them from scavengers and from damage from the elements. Over the years, adult dinosaurs kept coming back to the same nesting site to lay their eggs, explaining why there are so many eggs at the site.

It is likely that hundreds or maybe even thousands of the huge creatures gathered here to lay their eggs, in a valley



The fossilised skin of a baby dinosaur recovered from the site in Patagonia, where thousands of eggs were found

site formed by several streams. During that period, at the end of the Cretaceous, the giant sauropods were less common than they had been in the Jurassic, but many must have lived in this region. The area where the eggs

were found, near Nequen, has proved to be a rich source of dinosaur fossils in the past decade, many of them found by Rodolfo Coria, a palaeontologist of the Municipal Museum in Nequen, who was also involved in the latest find. The

nesting site where the find was made has been named Aucá Mahuevo, after the Spanish word for egg, *huevo*.

Lowell Dingus, a member of the team from the American Museum of Natural History, told of his astonishment when the team stumbled across the nesting site. "We knew from geological maps that rocks of the right age were exposed in this area, but no one had ever looked for dinosaur fossils there before. We were hoping for the best, but when we saw what we had found I was shocked. It's just not the sort of thing you anticipate."

Palaeontologists spend a lot of time prospecting, just like people prospect for gold, but at least 99 times out of 100 you don't find anything.

"To wander into an area littered with dinosaur eggs, a number of which turn out to have embryos in them and skin casts, is the kind of thing you dream about. It very, very rarely happens."

"The patches of skin we found were as large as a square inch. They're scaly, like the skin of a lizard — you can feel the scales. What is so amazing is that it gives you an idea of what it would have been like to touch one of these animals."

Rusty pipe linked to nuclear leaks

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A RUSTING pipe used for discharging liquids from the Dounreay nuclear plant is believed to be the source of almost 90 radioactive "hotspots" discovered on the seabed.

Small particles of radioactive metal were detected by divers using monitoring equipment during a nine-week underwater investigation in the Pentland Firth close to the Caithness site.

When 35 similar particles were found last year, the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, imposed an exclusion zone which banned commercial fishing within a 12 mile radius of the nuclear plant.

John Simson, Dounreay's environmental protection manager, said the particles, no bigger than grains of sand, were recovered from the seabed and were being analysed at the plant's laboratory.

More than 180 "hotspots" have been found on the shore at Dounreay in the last 15

years. They have forced the closure of a popular beach at Sandside Bay.

Yesterday Lorraine Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, said: "This new finding confirms the need for the fishing ban to remain in place around the plant. In the light of this disturbing new evidence, consideration should be given to extending it."

Roy Nelson, the plant's director, said that the radioactive particles were believed to have leaked from the pipe which discharged materials 600 yards offshore in the 1960s and 1970s. The pipe's diffuser was replaced in the early 1990s but the pipeline was badly damaged when it became tangled in the nets of a trawler several years ago.

The on-going examination of the seabed is part of a clean-up operation being carried out by Dounreay's operators, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

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Cook told officials to warn off mercenary

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

ROBIN COOK ordered Foreign Office staff to give a formal warning to the arms-to-Africa mercenary chief, Colonel Tim Spicer, not to be involved in any contract to send illegal arms to Kosovo.

His intervention over the firm which claimed the Government had connived in supplying arms to Sierra Leone in breach of a UN arms embargo emerged when the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee questioned Sir John Kerr, permanent secretary at the Foreign Office, yesterday. Sir John said that three recent contacts with Col Spicer were "specifically with ministerial authority" and that minutes were taken and witnesses present.

The FO confirmed that Mr Cook instructed a director to meet Colonel Spicer, director of Sandline International, to ensure that he understood the exact scope of the arms embargo to the former Yugo-



Sir John Kerr told MPs of three recent contacts with Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline

slavia. It was made clear in Whitehall last night that Mr Cook's fears were heightened by intelligence and diplomatic reports that the company might be involved in discussions involving a possible

breach of the embargo. Sandline supplied arms to the deposed President Kabbah in Sierra Leone. Colonel Spicer has always maintained the action was done with approval of

the British Government. In July Colonel Spicer was summoned to the Foreign Office to be warned that he should have no business dealings with a certain overseas businessman.

Ulster refuses to pay PR firm for US tour 'failure'

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has suspended payment to a leading public relations agency, claiming it failed adequately to promote a £1 million, three-week tour of America featuring the heroes of the Good Friday peace accord last month.

Shandwick's Washington office won a contract worth roughly £300,000 to promote the "Investment Roadshow" with David Trimble, Seamus Mallon and Mo Mowlam in a country that has 40 million citizens of Irish descent and treats Northern Ireland almost like a domestic story.

It should have been a plum assignment, but instead of making the headlines few television stations and newspapers gave the coast-to-coast tour much publicity.

While Gerry Adams goes from one chat show to another on US tours, no such arrangements were made for the mainstream nationalist and Union-

ist leaders. Sources said that Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board was singularly unimpressed by Shandwick's operation, and that the Central Office of Information is now preparing to investigate.

Mr Trimble, the First Minister who was awarded the Nobel peace prize during the trip, and Mr Mallon, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister, were equally disenchanted. "It was a nightmare from a PR point of view," one official in the party said.

"It was less than satisfactory... I was aghast," another said.

The roadshow involved up to two dozen politicians and officials touring 11 cities in a chartered plane. It was designed to attract US investment to Northern Ireland. At its New York launch, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, hailed it as the "biggest ever initiative

to promote Northern Ireland as an investment location".

The problem was not bad coverage, but the lack of coverage. Officials said the PR agency focused on a few elite business journalists and selected editorial boards to the almost total exclusion of the general media. Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon were in great demand, but practically no television appearances or radio interviews were arranged for them. Journalists were barred from their presentations to businessmen. There was little or no advance publicity.

"I don't think they realised the international impact of the story they had on their hands or why these guys were there," one source said.

Both the IDB and the COI declined to comment yesterday. Shandwick said the company's policy was "not to discuss the work we do for our clients with the media".

NEC lifts ban on media contacts

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S national executive last night watered down a controversial code of conduct on how members should deal with the media. Last week Margaret McDonagh, the party's general secretary, circulated a code which insisted that NEC members should not speak out on a range of issues, and should clear any statements with the press office.

The code, which has now been renamed "guidance", said that, to avoid exposing internal divisions, members should not take part in head-to-head debates with other party members.

But several NEC members accused the leadership of "control freakery". Yesterday Liz Davies, one of the four new left-wing members, voted against the guidance.

A party spokesman said that the changes made clear that the paper was not intended to silence debate and it would not be a disciplinary offence if members spoke out.

Hague must decide if he is a family man

THE Tories are keen to show they have a social as well as an economic agenda. But they seem intellectually torn. They want the Government to support and encourage the family, but oppose the nanny state.

William Hague's Wilberforce lecture earlier this week sought to reconcile these positions. His attempt to link Conservative principles with the Christian moral tradition is a necessary exercise in bridge-building with the Church after the tensions of the past two decades. But as Mr Hague rightly argued, no party or politician has "a copyright on Scripture". It is pointless to compete to be holier than thou.

More significantly, Mr Hague tried to establish a moral case for limited government (and the limits of politics), for the market economy and capitalism, for low taxes and for the family as a crucial factor in a healthy society. He noted that "when the state takes over responsibility for decisions about healthcare, schooling, pensions and other welfare provision, a price is paid in a diminished sense of civic obligation and personal responsibility".

That begs the question of how to sustain family and marriage. Both Mr Hague and the Government, in its Green Paper, are at pains to avoid appearing moralistic. They are for marriage and believe it is best for children, but do not want to appear to be against single parents.

The Government wants to help families by a mixture of sensible advice (for instance, on the role of grandparents) and intervention by extending the work of health visitors. The pro-family lobby has concentrated on changing taxes and benefits to support mar-

riage. Mr Hague revived the Tory manifesto proposal for a tax allowance for married couples where one is working and the other is caring for children or an elderly relative.

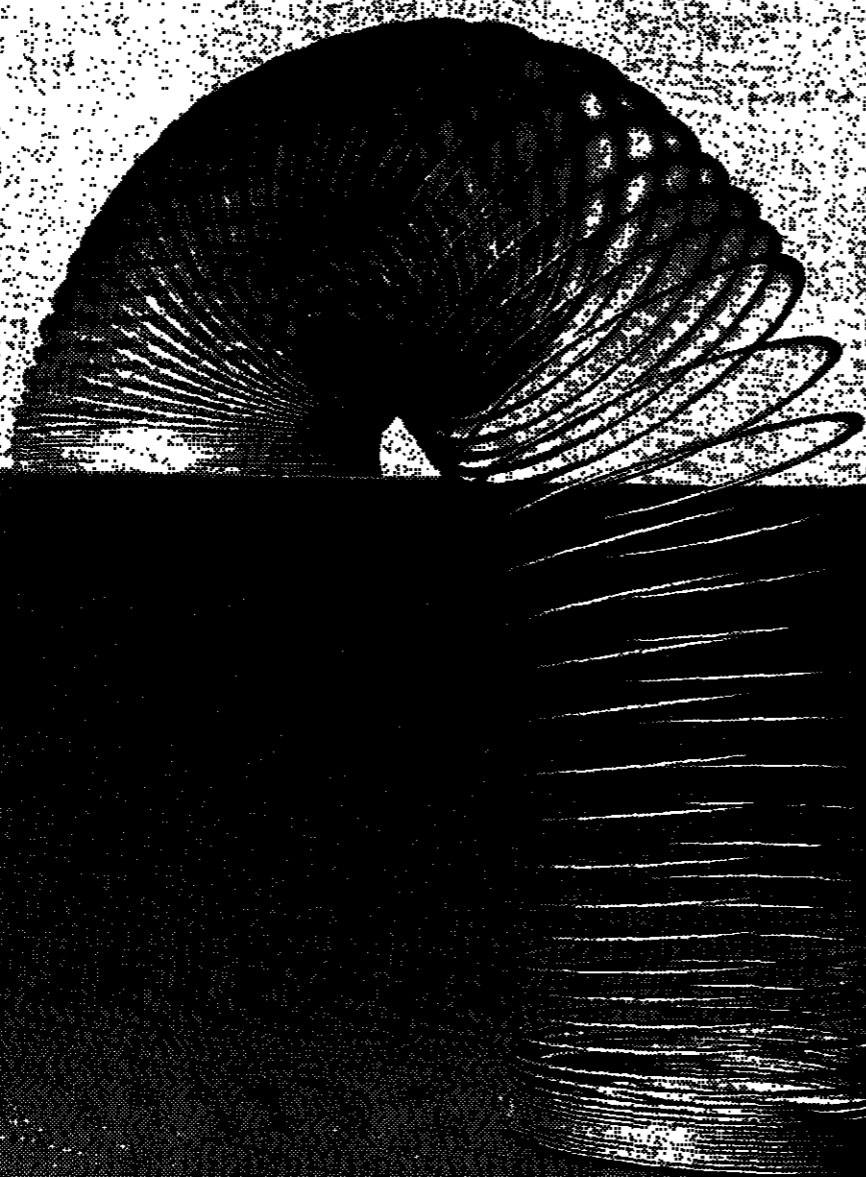
Much of the Republican soul-searching since the mid-term elections has been about how the party should help the family and how far it should jettison its social conservative message. Should it present its case in the softer and more appealing terms of "big tent"/inclusive conservatism like the Bush brothers' successful governorship campaigns? David Frum, the conservative commentator, argued in *The New York Times* that there is a moral choice: between liberals who believe that smoking and waste are public matters while sexual conduct is an individual's own business, and conservatives who worry that liberal solutions to family break-up will expand the role of the state and who believe the decline of the family should be reversed. That implies taking a moral stand on what others regard as private conduct.

Most Tories share Mr Frum's worries about "liberal" solutions: for instance, whether Welfare to Work measures to encourage lone parents to return to work conflict with allowing mothers to look after young children. But Tory leaders have been wary of taking a moral stand about private behaviour. A majority of the public takes a liberal view on, say, homosexuals and lone parents. Taking a moral stand may mean extending the role of the state.

Mr Hague has opened up an important debate for the Tories. But changing tax allowances does not amount to a family policy.

Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

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'Human zoo' owner on trial in Thailand

Report in Times prompted a government inquiry, writes Andrew Chant

A REPORT in *The Times* exposing a "human zoo" camp in Thailand where 21 children from a long-necked Burmese hill tribe were kept on show for tourists forced a Thai government inquiry that led to its closure, a northern Thailand court was told yesterday.

The report, published last November, was forwarded by the Thai Embassy in London and led to an inquiry by Lada-wan Wongsriwong, the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai.

After receiving evidence gathered by Andrew Drummond, a correspondent for *The Times*, and Sudarat Serewat, Secretary-General of the Coalition to Fight Against Child Exploitation, Ms Lada-wan went to see the camp's conditions for herself. After her visit the Interior Minister ordered its closure.

In court in Fang, near the Burmese border, were Thana Nakhuang, the camp owner, and Rakkiat Sri Siriwitai, the manager of the "human zoo" in Ban San Thon Du, near Thason. Both deny depriving people of their liberty and that the detention caused death. They face sentences of three to 20 years in prison.

Ms Sudarat told the court how she travelled with Mr Drummond and officials to Ban San Thon Du after they had heard pleas for help — recorded on tape and smuggled out through tourists — from Padaung families inside. With them was an aide to the Karen Refugee Committee, Zaw Thet, himself a Padaung.

"When they saw us they rushed to the gates," said Ms Sudarat. From interviews they established that one woman had died while in the camp. "I spoke to the woman's husband, who simply said she had died of a broken heart."

the Padaung about their detention. Those interviews, said Ms Sudarat, were clear statements that the Padaung had been tricked out of Burma against their will, and were detained against their will.

Ms Sudarat asked Colonel Sitiporn, the local deputy police chief, why the Padaung could not be released into the custody of immigration officers. "He replied that he needed time to make a report," she said.

Later she saw the local police report and "discovered they had tried to cover up the offences in their district by distorting the evidence. When I asked the district administrator why the Padaung could not be freed, he said he did not want to have a conflict with Thana Nakhuang."

Mr Thana publishes a weekly newspaper and owns a karaoke bar in a Chiang Mai hotel. The case continues.



Paduang women from a remote Burmese hill tribe at Nasoi refugee camp in Thailand. Relatives taken captive were used as a tourist attraction

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RIDDELL
ON POLITICS



Tribeswomen became exploited exhibits

Cyber-dissident faces secret Shanghai trial

AS THE Chinese Communist Party struggles to maintain its monopoly of power and sources of information, a computer executive is to be tried in secret next week for "inciting subversion of state power", the Information Centre of Human Rights and Pro-Democracy Movement reported yesterday (James Pringle writes). The alleged cyber-dissident, Lin Hai, 30, is accused of sup-

plying "foreign hostile publications" with 30,000 Chinese e-mail addresses so that they could receive reports on politically sensitive topics and criticism of China's Government. The Shanghai trial is believed to be the first high-profile prosecution for alleged Internet subversion. The human rights group released a letter from Mr Lin's wife, Xu Hong, calling for an open trial.

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US 'encouraging' Malaysian unrest

By M.G.G. PILAI IN KUALA LUMPUR AND DAVID WATTS, ASIA EDITOR

IN A blistering attack on the United States for inciting political dissidence, the Malaysian Government said yesterday that Washington would shoulder the blame for any further street protests.

Responding to a summit dinner speech by Vice-President Al Gore at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum, a Foreign Ministry statement attacked his "most unwarranted intrusion" and "incitement... to lawlessness." Thus the Malaysian Government brought an already unsuccessful economic summit to a new low. It has already been marred by a lack of agreement on a free trade package and its importance has been reduced by the absence of President Clinton because of the standoff with Iraq.

In a dinner speech on Monday night, Mr Gore shocked his audience when he held them: "Among nations suffering economic crisis, we continue to hear calls for democracy in many languages."

"We hear them today — right here, right now — among the brave people of Malaysia," he added, just days after Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had met Wan Azizah, the wife of the detained

former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim. Dr Azizah has also been in contact with visiting delegations from Australia and Canada while Mr Anwar himself has launched legal action claiming that his removal from office was unconstitutional since it was not approved by the United Malays National Organisation political party, of which he is a member.

Mr Clinton yesterday commended Mr Gore for his speech. The two men spoke by telephone, said a White House spokesman, who added that the President had intended to deliver the same speech had he travelled to the summit.

"It was certainly the speech that we were planning to give and it certainly reflects US policy," he said.

The Apec summit has been marked by anti-government protests not merely in support of Mr Anwar but also demanding the removal of Danuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, whom many Malaysians criticise not only for his dictatorial methods and corruption but also blame for damaging relations with foreign countries.

Mr Anwar is still on trial on charges of corruption and sodomy but the

trial has been adjourned until after the summit.

Abdullah Badawi, the Foreign Minister, said: "Malaysia regrets as most unwarranted the provocative remarks made by US Vice-President Al Gore and the White House."

"Malaysia finds the incitement by the US Government to lawlessness by certain elements within the country to use undemocratic means in order to overthrow constitutionally elected elements most abhorrent."

He said Malaysia "prized its peace and racial harmony" and added that Kuala Lumpur would hold the US responsible for "any rupture of this harmony arising from this irresponsible incitement."

The Foreign Minister accused Washington of serving its own narrow interests and declared that its intrusion was a "gross interference" in the internal affairs of Malaysia and also a "brazen violation of the basic tenets of relations between sovereign states." He said: "Malaysia does not take kindly to such sanctimonious sermonising from any quarter, especially the United States, a country which is known to have committed gross violations of human rights."



Two Kurdish men who doused themselves with petrol and set themselves ablaze in Moscow yesterday to protest against the treatment of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) founder held in Rome. One was critically ill (Our Foreign Staff writes). Mr Ocalan has led a

Fireball protest by Kurds

14-year struggle against Turkey for Kurdish self-rule in which about 37,000 have died. He fled to Moscow last month after Syria agreed to expel him from his base there. He was captured in

than 4,000 protested in Bonn yesterday. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said asylum would be granted only if he had really renounced terrorism. In Yuksekova, southeastern Turkey, four people were hurt in a suicide attack by a Kurdish woman on a police station.

Attack on executive wife baffles police

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

DUTCH authorities were yesterday still trying to determine a motive for the violent abduction last week of the estranged wife of one of the country's leading executives.

Hansje Boonstra-Raaijns, the 62-year-old wife of Cor Boonstra, chairman of electronics giant Philips, was discovered beside a road near Rotterdam on Friday evening, barely conscious, handcuffed and suffering from hypothermia. She had been badly beaten around the head after having been abducted in her own car from her home in Belgium. Dutch police yesterday appealed for witnesses to come

forward after conceding that they were baffled by the crime.

They said that Mrs Boonstra had clearly been targeted by one or two "hitmen", but it was unclear whether the perpetrators were pursuing a vendetta against Mrs Boonstra or other members of her family.

One theory is that disgruntled employees of Philips may have been trying to hit back at the strongarm, no-nonsense business strategy of the chairman-Mr Boonstra, 60, who recently left his wife for the head of a female temping group, scrapped 6,000 jobs after taking control of the company two years ago.



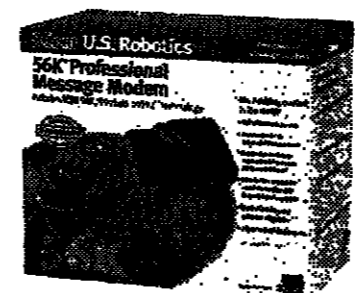
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Models tell



US spy blamed for death of Resistance hero

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN MOULIN, the French Resistance hero who died after being tortured by the Gestapo in 1943, fell into the hands of the Germans because of bungled American espionage and not through the treachery of a fellow Resistance member, according to a book published in France today.

Historians have long thought that Moulin was betrayed by René Hardy, a Resistance fighter believed to have turned traitor. But the author Jacques Baynac claims that the Gestapo intercepted the Resistance chief when he met an American agent two days before he was arrested.

Charged by de Gaulle with unifying the various anti-Nazi resistance groups within France, Moulin, a former prefect of the Eure-et-Loir region, was arrested at a meeting of Resistance leaders in the home of Dr Frédéric Dugoujon in Caluire, near Lyons, on June 21, 1943.



Moulin: died after being tortured by the Gestapo

Imprisoned and tortured in the Montluc fortress by Klaus Barbie, the head of the Lyons Gestapo, Moulin died on or around July 8 as he was being transferred to Germany. After the war it was assumed that Hardy had gone to the meeting with Moulin, having arranged for the Gestapo to follow him. But in *The Secrets of the Jean Moulin Affair* — Unpublished Archives



A stuffed pigeon takes centre stage at police headquarters in Frankfurt yesterday. Live pigeons were allegedly being used by a man, accused of blackmailing Nestlé, to carry diamonds to him in pouches around their necks

Pigeons home in on blackmail suspect

Frankfurt: A man who allegedly blackmailed Nestlé, the Swiss food company, by poisoning its products, was arrested after detectives in a helicopter trailed his homing pigeons, German police said.

Alexandru Nehmet, 43, was arrested near Frankfurt after allegedly blackmailing Nestlé and German subsidiaries over the past two years. Mr Nehmet has claimed he is innocent, but police said they were looking for accomplices.

Police said Nehmet had asked for DM25 million (£9 million) of uncut diamonds from Thomy, a Nestlé subsidiary, after inserting cyanide into 20 mustard and mayonnaise tubes and replacing them on supermarket shelves.

Models tell of being lured to prostitution for rich and famous

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FOUR aspiring young models told a packed Paris court yesterday that they had been raped and sexually assaulted by Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, a soft-porn photographer and one of the alleged organisers of a high-class prostitution ring which procured girls as young as 15 for film stars, politicians, international businessmen and Arab princes.

is suspected of luring naive young girls into the vice ring by promising them modelling contracts in the Bahamas and the South of France. The four young women are among a dozen who have joined the case as civil plaintiffs.

On the second day of the trial yesterday, they described how M Bourgeois allegedly took obscene photographs and sexually assaulted them before introducing them to wealthy clients. One of the young women, Nadia Makawy, 22, told the court that, after meeting M Bourgeois in

1996, he invited her to his home for a modelling session and took sexually suggestive pictures. She said that she was then taken to the luxurious Hotel Meurice where she was introduced to several men, including a famous American actor. Mile Makawy described M Bourgeois as "very perverted" and said the photographer placed her in a situation where she constantly felt guilty and afraid.

French authorities are said to be concerned about the possibility of the vice ring's client list, which allegedly includes several valuable Middle Eastern customers of the French arms industry and two senior French politicians, being revealed during the trial.

her to a boat moored off St Tropez with the promise of lucrative modelling contracts. There he introduced her to a millionaire and three Arab dignitaries. The next day, she was put on a plane back to Sweden by M Bourgeois's Lebanese-born business partner, Nazih al-Ladki, who is also on trial for pimping.

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Tapes voice anguish of Monica

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH
IN WASHINGTON

EVERYONE knows her face: now Monica Lewinsky has finally been given a voice. At times whining, at others excitedly babbling and often almost unintelligible for distressed sobbing, the young woman whose affair with President Clinton sparked an impeachment inquiry was heard publicly for the first time yesterday.

The release of the notorious "Monica tapes" — secret recordings made by Linda Tripp of her conversations with the former White House trainee — vividly highlighted the emotional turmoil Ms Lewinsky was suffering. The soundtrack of her anguish is like-

ly to add to the pressure on Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, who is due to be grilled tomorrow about the way he conducted his inquiry into her affair with the President.

The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, which is holding the impeachment inquiry into Mr Clinton's behaviour, made public 37 tapes containing 22 hours of conversations covertly recorded by Mrs Tripp. They added nothing to the evidence given to the inquiry, as the full transcripts of the conversations about the affair and Ms Lewinsky's subsequent unhappiness, have already been released and pored over at length. But they show a deep misery that is not apparent from simply reading what

she said. From the reams of printed transcripts, many of the conversations appeared to be simply rambling telephone conversations between the two women about Ms Lewinsky's disgruntlement at the end of the affair, and Mr Clinton's failure to call her or help her to find a job. But on the tapes there are long sections where she is almost unable to talk for weeping.

On other occasions, when she is describing a meeting with the President, or a gift she plans to give him, Ms Lewinsky sounds like the precocious teenagers familiar from television shows set in Beverly Hills where she grew up. When she talks of falling in love with the President — "I never expected to feel that way about

him" — she has the fluency of a girl who spent much of her youth on psychiatrists' couches.

Equally compelling is Mrs Tripp's voice. She remains calm and collected as she nasally intones lists of the ways in which Mr Clinton has hurt Ms Lewinsky.

The release of the tapes had been delayed while technicians painstakingly edited out sections that had been cut by the judiciary committee because they contained foul language or referred to innocent parties.

A new poll in *USA Today* yesterday showed that almost two thirds of the American people view Mr Starr's handling of the inquiry negatively. The White House has been offered

half an hour to cross examine him and is understood to be considering whether to get involved in a scrap or leave the grilling to Democrats on the committee.

The Democrats are likely to ask Mr Starr about any contacts he had with lawyers representing Paula Jones before he asked to expand his mandate to investigate the Lewinsky affair. They want to depict him as over-zealous and politically motivated. It was reported yesterday, however, that Mr Starr may still be investigating Mr Clinton after he leaves office because of the new indictments he brought against Webster Hubbell, an old friend of the Clintons, concerning an alleged property scandal.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Sudanese rebels clash in Nairobi

Nairobi: A fight in the Kenyan capital between rival factions of southern Sudan's main rebel group has left one man dead and several wounded (David Orr writes). The home of John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, was attacked by supporters of Kerubino Bol, a fellow Sudanese with whom Colonel Garang is locked in a bitter feud. Six people are understood to have been arrested.

Meanwhile, the war between government forces and the rebels continues to rage in Sudan, despite a supposed ceasefire in the areas most affected by famine. Two patients were killed and 11 wounded when a hospital in the southern town of Yei was bombed by government aircraft at the weekend.

Spanish bus deaths

Madrid: Seven pupils and a lorry driver were killed in a collision between a school bus carrying students aged from 12 to 17 and a truck in the northern Spanish region of Asturias, officials said. Fifteen other students were hurt in the accident, which happened near the coastal town of Buelna as the bus travelled towards Llanes. The seriously injured were transferred by helicopter to hospital. According to one witness, the head-on crash happened in fog. (Reuters)

Nero theory in flames

Rome: A wall painting dating from the first century AD that was uncovered near the Colosseum is not Rome in the time of Nero, as previously thought, but the French city of Arles. *Il Messaggero* reported (Richard Owen writes). The fresco was unearthed in the underground ruins of Nero's Golden House. Scholars were divided over the identity of the city in the painting, but Paolo Poeschi, the Mayor of Arles, claimed archaeologists had told him they believed the city was Arles.

British hostage freed

Lagos: Eight oil workers, including an unnamed Briton, abducted last week by militant youths in southern Nigeria, were released unharmed and in good spirits, a Texaco official said. The hostages — who included three Americans and an Italian — were seized near the Niger River delta by armed youths from the ethnic Ijaw community who were demanding a ransom. Details of the conditions of the hostages' release were not made public. (AP)

Le Pen appeal fails

Paris: A French appeals court upheld an assault conviction against Jean-Marie Le Pen, 70, banning the National Front leader from seeking office in next year's European elections and throwing his political future into doubt (Ben Macintyre writes). The court confirmed his three-month suspended jail sentence for assaulting a female political opponent in last year's legislative elections, but cut his ban on seeking elected office from two years to one. He may appeal again.

Jackpot granny

Los Angeles: A grandmother, 67, who fed slot machines over more than 20 years, won \$27.6 million (£16.5 million) in Las Vegas. The unidentified woman realised her luck only when fellow players ran through Palace State Hotel Casino with the news. The largest slot machine jackpot yet, it was won at a machine linked to 700 others at 33 Nevada locations. The winner — six weeks ago she collected \$680,000 playing Wheel of Fortune — will not be sharing the cash with her family. (AFP)

Young Jews to get free Israel trip

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

IN A COSTLY attempt to strengthen ties between Jewish youth and Israel, philanthropists yesterday launched a \$300 million (£184 million) programme offering free ten-day trips to Israel for every Jew in the world aged from 15 to 26.

Birthright Israel is the brainchild of the opposition Labour politician Yossi Beilin, who was dismayed at the weakening contacts between Jews in the Diaspora and Israel. "We have lost the feeling of partnership," he said.

The first young Jews are due to arrive here in 2000. Private donors, Jewish charities and the Israeli Government have agreed to raise the money to finance the first five years.

The scheme is intended to combat assimilation by Jewish communities abroad, which some Jews call a new Holocaust.

"This will at least keep people thinking about their roots," Mr Beilin told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Many of them today do not know what they are losing by cutting their contact with the Jewish people."

□ Arafat backing: As the Knesset yesterday debated the Wye peace deal, the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat defused the latest crisis over its implementation by publicly disavowing violence.



The transformation of Hillary Clinton continues (Damian Whitworth writes). Looking chic and composed, above, America's First Lady sits in a soft light on a White House terrace studying papers and looking almost presidential. Gone is the more familiar furrowed brow, left, the popyeal look and toothy grin.

After emerging from the Monica Lewinsky scandal as almost the only person with her image enhanced, she has been given iconic status: she is the first First Lady to appear on the cover of *Vogue*. Mrs Clinton has won wide-

Fresh image for First Lady

spread praise and booming popularity for her dignified silence on the subject of her husband's errant ways.

In the election she proved the Democrats' most effective campaigner and there are calls for her to run for public office herself after Mr Clinton's presidency ends. Now the American edition of the style bible has published photographs of her by the celeb-

rity photographer Annie Leibovitz. She is depicted as a glamour queen unrecognisable as the woman with unkempt hair and granny glasses who first appeared on the public stage. "I think she's feeling incredibly confident and good about the way she looks," said the magazine's editor, Anna Wintour. "If you look at the year she's had, how many women could behave with such stature?"

Mrs Clinton has had numerous image revamps with countless hairstyle changes but has never achieved the relaxed poise of the new photographs.

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MARCH 20TH - 25TH

IT'S NOT JUST A IT'S AN ADVENTURE

Kismet the emotional robot

Making robots appear more like babies in need of nurture encourages human beings to interact with them, says Anjana Ahuja

On the whole robots are lacking in the "cute" department. They may be able to roam distant planets and navigate burning buildings, but these automatons generally leave us cold.

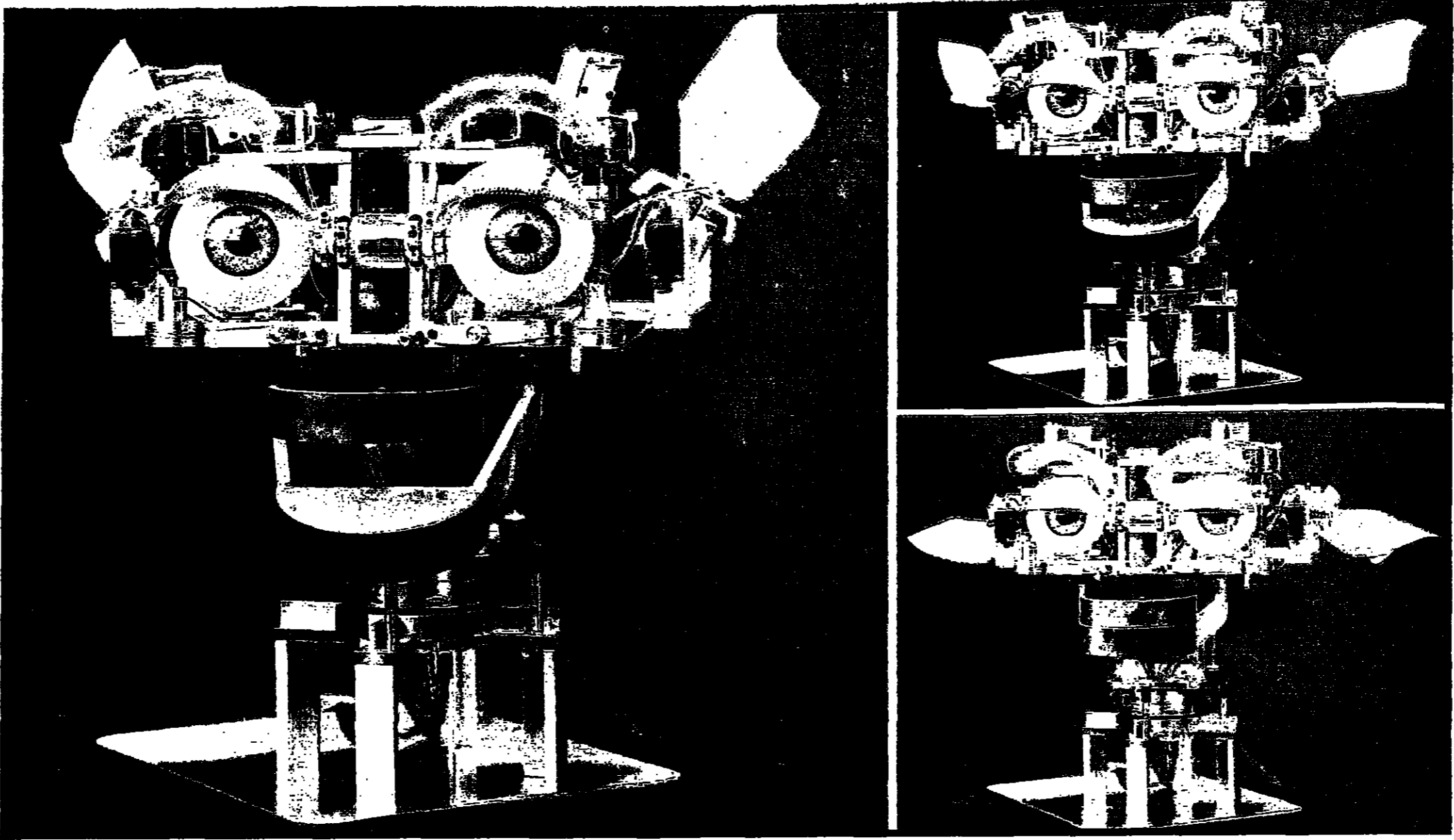
That, says Cynthia Breazeal, a researcher in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is proving a real problem for people trying to build the most advanced robots in the world. "Everyday life is so difficult and complicated that you cannot prepare a robot for every situation it might encounter," she says. "The robot's going to have to learn. But to get it to learn, you have to put it in a benevolent environment where a human being wants to nurture it."

That is why Kismet was created. The robot, whose name means good fortune in Turkish, is modelled loosely on an infant during its first year of life and was created by Ms Breazeal and her MIT colleagues Brian Scassellati and Ulysses Gilchrist. "Even though babies don't have language, they communicate very well with their care-giver, certainly enough to satisfy their needs," she says.

Kismet, too, has modest communication abilities but, just as a baby quickly becomes the centre of attention, Kismet has managed to captivate both AI researchers and novices. In years to come it could even become the new Tamagotchi. Its eyes, eyebrows, ears and mouth change position according to mood to display ten basic expressions: happiness, sadness, interest, surprise, calm, anger, fear, disgust, tiredness and sleep. It judges whether it is confronted with a face or a "non-face stimulus", then responds with one of these expressions. Each look has its own "drive" which must be satisfied, Ms Breazeal, who is working towards a PhD, says: "If the robot's drives are being met, then it is in a state of wellbeing and looks interested and perky. And if a person appears in front of it and behaves in an appropriate way, it will look happy."

"Kismet uses a basic shading pattern to recognise faces, with dark patches for eyes and mouths so it can tell if anyone is in front of it. If left alone, it begins to look sad. When a threshold of, say, five minutes passes, the ears start to droop, the eyelids start falling and the eyebrows rise. It's very intuitive feedback."

Waving a non-face stimulus, such as a toy, in front of it restores a look of interest.



Kismet the robot bears a passing resemblance to the creatures in the film *Gremlins*: "A receptionist in our laboratory thinks it's the cutest thing ever," says Cynthia Breazeal of MIT

although waving it too frantically makes Kismet look fearful. If the person doesn't take the hint to back off, the robot will exhibit anger or disgust. The "fatigue drive" might even set in and send Kismet to sleep for a minute. The robot wakes up automatically in a state of calm, with its emotional drives reset, ready for another encounter. But if the person calms down and looks away for a few moments, its negative expressions disappear. The idea is that a person engages Kismet enough to stop it looking sad, but not so much that it is overwhelmed. If all the emotions are within an acceptable range, the robot maintains a happy gaze.

Just as babies rely on their adorable looks to attract an adult's interest, Kismet is rather endearing. "Babies evoke an

emotional response, which is critical to their survival," says Ms Breazeal. "You have to care about the robot and nurture it. If you couldn't care less about it, you're not going to play with it and it's not going to learn. That's why I want people to treat Kismet like an infant."

People do show strong reactions to her creation, which bears a passing resemblance to the creatures in the film *Gremlins*. "A receptionist in the laboratory thinks it's the cutest thing ever. She gets a real kick from seeing it change expression," says Ms Breazeal. "In fact, women seem more attuned to it than men."

The technological advances made during the manufacture of Kismet will be subsumed into the Cog project, an ambitious MIT program to make the world's most in-

telligent artificial being. But there is one sticking point — although Kismet can respond like an infant, it cannot learn. That enormous task will be absorbed into the development of Kismet II, under way at the moment.

Other improvements are planned for the new version, such as a mouth whose curvature changes with mood (at the moment it can only open and close) so that it can smile properly. Its neck will be more mobile, enabling it to look around its environment rather than just staring ahead. Skin and fur will be added over the frame of the face — this aims to evoke a more powerful emotional response. "We want to make it look like a furry, cute, fanciful creature," Ms Breazeal says. "We decided not to make it look like a human

baby because people have a very negative reaction if even the slightest feature is not quite right. And you have to get people to respond to it in the right way." Its interpretation of a face as a crude pattern of dark and light shades is also rather primitive — it cannot tell the difference between a "human face and that of a soft toy."

The researchers are considering installing "sound files" — computerised sounds such as giggles, cries and burbles that could be called up to accompany certain expressions. They would also like to endow their creature with the rudiments of hearing — not to understand language but to give it the ability to gauge mood from the sound of a voice.

Kismet has intrigued the artificial intelligence community because it incorpo-

rates so much technology in its human head-sized frame. "Most people just cover one area, such as vision, auditory systems or motor control, but Kismet has them all. In that sense it's unusual," Ms Breazeal says. "People get very excited about it because it's kind of way out."

"But the real test is yet to come. We have this grand vision to create a robotic creature that people can feel they are truly interacting with, so we really need to work on the learning bit. But if we can achieve that, it will be truly groundbreaking."

However, Ms Breazeal does not believe that Kismet's charms should be confined to the laboratory. With its floppy ears, enormous eyes and sweet expressions, it could be taken up by the entertainment and toy industries. Parents, take note.

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New drugs bring flu relief

FLU HAS always been one of those illnesses from which it takes a week to recover if you are treated — and seven days if you are not. At last, a new range of drugs seems set to change this. The neuraminidase inhibitors (NI) are not a cure for flu but encouraging results in trials suggest that they can reduce the misery.

Last week the latest data on zanamivir, Glaxo Wellcome's NI, was presented in Denver, Colorado. When added to earlier results for this drug and for an NI called GS4104, produced by Roche, an encouraging picture is taking shape.

Unlike the existing flu drugs amantadine and rimantidine, the NIs are equally effective at treating all types of flu, have preventive value if given at the start of an epidemic, and have few side-effects. And it does

not seem likely that viral resistance will be an immediate problem.

Patients who took zanamivir suffered fewer symptoms and were back to normal activities up to two days sooner, according to the latest study, co-ordinated by Dr Douglas Fleming of the Birmingham Research Unit of the Royal College of General Practitioners. A total of 277 patients with flu were given either the drug — which is administered by inhaler — or a placebo. Those given the drug recovered sooner, felt less ill and suffered fewer complications.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

"This trial confirmed that zanamivir provided important health benefits," says Dr Fleming. "We observed a significant reduction in the severity of symptoms reported by all patients, so zanamivir not only reduced the duration of the illness but made it less debilitating."

Roche's drug, taken orally, is running slightly behind zanamivir, but also seems to be doing well in trials. The company reported that it reduced the severity of flu symptoms by 25 to 40 per cent, cut the duration of the illness by 30 per cent,

and reduced complications such as bronchitis and sinusitis by 50 per cent. A third NI, produced by BioCryst in Birmingham, Alabama, is yet to undergo trials.

The NIs are the product of rational drug design. They act by blocking the action of neuraminidase, an enzyme on which the virus relies to infect new cells. Zanamivir was developed in Australia and licensed to Glaxo Wellcome by Biota Holdings, a Melbourne company. The drug slots into a cleft in the three-dimensional surface of the enzyme — the enzyme's "active site" — then stops it working.

The market for flu treatments, *Nature Biotechnology* estimates, is \$700 million a year (£409 million), but could climb to several billion if the NIs realise their promise.

Crisp future for lettuce



SCIENTISTS at the University of Nottingham have found a way of delaying the droop of lettuce leaves, a finding which could have considerable benefits both for lettuce-growers and for those of us who like a crisp salad.

Lettuce that lasts longer in the fridge might even reconcile reluctant consumers to genetically modified food.

Dr Ian Curtis and his colleagues used a method he has developed which can introduce gene modifications into many different types of lettuce. The genes are attached to an especially virulent form of the plant bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, which is then used to infect the

plants. The beauty of the method is that it works with a wide variety of lettuce cultivars.

Dr Curtis has already used it to create lettuce with a more vigorous root system which may be more drought-tolerant, and lettuce with lower levels of nitrate in their leaves.

The ever-crisp variety was created by introducing a gene called T-cyt, which is responsible for making an enzyme that in turn is involved in the synthesis of cytokinin, a hormone responsible for growth and development.

The result was lettuce with higher levels of cytokinin, which is known to delay the natural process of senescence and decay by protecting cell membranes.

The lettuce stays crisper for longer, which could potentially save much money for growers who at present have to store lettuce at low temperatures or in controlled atmospheres to ensure that it stays crisp.

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Spot the moose with loose habits

TWO biologists from the University of Nevada have risked ridicule by dressing up as a moose.

Dr Joel Berger dons the front end of a moose suit, his wife, Carol Cunningham, takes the rear. Thus attired, they move among the moose herds of Wyoming and Alaska, throwing balls of bear dung or snowballs soaked with wolf urine towards the moose. "This is high-tech science," Dr Berger told *The New York Times*.

The idea was to see if the absence of bear and wolves — traditional enemies of the moose — had altered their behaviour. They compared moose in Alaska, where bears and wolves still flourish, with those in Wyoming, where the predators have long since vanished. As expected, the Alaskan moose immediately became alert, and the hair rose on the back of their necks when they scented the missiles flung by the intrepid pair. The Wyoming moose remained indifferent.

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Great maternity tour but where are the babies?

Monday: It is 5:20pm and we are standing in the foyer of St Luke's-Roosevelt hospital on 10th Avenue and 59th Street, under a white metal gazebo next to the gift shop, which offers an impressive selection of foil balloons and 'Beanie Babies'. A troop of delivery boys hurries in and out bearing increasingly exotic baskets laden with a variety of flame lilies, stargazers and pineapples. And behind us what looks like a crematorium wall turns out, on closer examination, to be celebratory stone panels carrying the name of benefactors, including Time Warner, Ernst & Young and Vogue magazine. "We are proud to brew Starbucks coffee and serve Krispy Kreme donuts," says an advertisement for Café Roosevelt, on the first floor.

There are 60 of us altogether, 30 pregnant women (all first-timers) with bellies at varying stages of distension, and our strange collection of partners, waiting uneasily for a guide to whisk us off on the Maternity Tour—a compulsory trip for all those planning to give birth here. Several of the men are clearly reluctant participants, still in their

corporate suits, impatiently sucking water from sports-top bottles. A knot of lesbian couples determinedly hold hands.

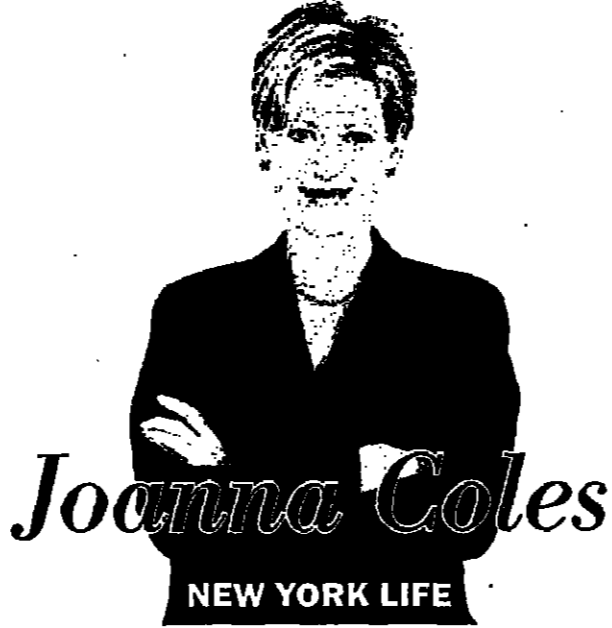
At 5:30pm our guide directs us to a lecture room, passing round leaflets advertising the hospital's birthing centre. Your beautifully decorated room will have hardwood floors, a full-sized bed, a rocking chair and a bassinets. To ease labour, you may take advantage of a new hydrotherapy tub. Accompanying this text is an artist's sketch reminiscent of a honeymoon suite at the Holiday Inn.

With their guaranteed fast turnover, maternity wards are hugely profitable for American hospitals and, after a swanky refit, St Luke's-Roosevelt is top of the New York league.

"Hi, I'm Penny," says our guide, as we all sit down. "I'm a trained nurse and I'm now working in corporate America."

"Hi, Penny," several in our group chorus back on this the first stop of Theme Park Maternity.

"We've got a lot to offer," Penny goes on, smoothing the lapels on her ultra-



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

tailored green suit. "Whatever your needs, we can meet them. We've got high-tech stuff, just like in a movie, and if you prefer less of a medical ambience, we've got that, too. I'll be showing you everything," she says with a smile. Her gold chain and matching earrings wink in the neon.

Including the birthing centre, which looks like a Vermont B&B, somewhere you'd go for the weekend to get away from it all.

While I am intrigued by the idea of giving birth in a "Vermont B&B," there appear to be two distinct disadvantages to the latest fad in birthing centres. The first and rather serious one is that

there is no access to pain relief. The second is that you are expected to go home a mere six hours after giving birth—although this is supposedly mitigated by the enticement of a single home visit from a nurse the following day.

"Any questions?" Penny inquires.

"Yes, how long does the nurse's visit last?" asks an anxious-looking woman with cropped black hair.

"I'm not sure," answers Penny.

"About an hour," calls out someone else. "I checked already."

"One hour, is that all?" exclaims the woman, looking even more anxious.

Penny, her face of corporate America unlined, moves smoothly on to discuss the nursery facilities.

"Hey," interrupts a man, his wife nudging him encouragingly. "Can births be videotaped?"

"That's between you and your doctor," says Penny with a grimace. "Normally they're not so keen. But photographs at any point during labour are fine."

"Malpractice," whispers

my neighbour. "If you've got it all on tape, it's much easier to nail them in court."

"So what's the nurse-to-patient ratio?" asks an aggressive voice from the back.

"Good question," says Penny brightly. "I'll try to get back to you on that."

As we progress down the turquoise corridors, the group has taken on the character of an unruly school trip. There are the Swots, who ply Penny with eager questions. The Bored, who stand at the back and talk. The Troublemakers, who tamper with medical equipment, the Show-Offs and the Worriers.

"When are you actually admitted?" demands a worrier.

"We had a friend who arrived too early and had to sleep with her head on an air-conditioner."

"Well, by the time you're admitted, you'll be in strong labour," explains Penny calmly.

"But can you give me a specific time?" persists the worrier.

"You'll learn about that in classes," says Penny, speeding along the corridor. Behind her we peer into rooms, gawping at the mothers

propped up in their beds as though we are on an outing to a medical zoo. Oddly, we never see a baby.

"Now this is a post-partum room," she cries over our hubbub as we crowd into a pleasant room with Laura Ashley-style decor and a large television bearing the sign "To rent this colour TV please call ext 6899".

"How much is the TV?" demands a troublemaker, the same one keen on videotaping the birth.

"Five dollars a day, and it must be in cash," says Penny, raising her voice to make sure we can all hear. "You should definitely keep some cash in your pocket."

"Check out this view, man," says one of the show-offs, a Wall Street type in a dark suit, clambering on to the bed and propping himself up on one elbow to stare downtown. It is a magnificent vista, taking in midtown, a glimpse of a glittering Hudson River, and beyond to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. "Prime real estate or what?" he remarks as his wife tugs him off. "Too bad it's wasted on a hospital."

Outside, the horses that

pull tourist carriages round Central Park are clopping back to their stables for the night.

"In a real emergency we can deliver a baby in three minutes," Penny explains, demonstrating how to place an infant in a tray that turns out to be a baby-warmer. "Kinda reminds me of heating french fries at Burger King," giggles a woman to her female partner, hoisting up her leggings.

Our last stop of the tour is the famous birthing centre, which would indeed look at home in a select guide to Vermont country inns. Penny presses on a large gilt-framed painting above the bed and it slides, James Bond-style, to reveal a hidden cupboard containing oxygen outlets and various medical apparatus. Suddenly, as we squeeze back into the corridor, we hear a baby's cry, and a nurse walks by with a tiny bundle. She pulls the blanket up so we can see its furious red face, and for the first and only time our entire unruly group—the Swots, the Troublemakers, the Worriers, the Show-Offs and the Bored—are united as rapt parents-in-waiting.

Is styling William Hague a mission impossible?

The Tory leader has called in an image consultant. Can anything be done, asks Grace Bradberry

In the run-up to the last election, the Tories complained bitterly that Labour had stolen their clothes. They meant this metaphorically and were talking of matters of substance, not style.

William Hague has now had to strip off that metaphor, calling in the dapper John Morgan, an associate editor of *GQ* magazine and columnist of this newspaper, to give him a belated makeover.

His decision is sadly like that of a general who decides to change tactic only when outflanked on all sides. While Hague was ambling along in his double-breasted suits and peculiar sports jackets, both the Labour leadership and his rival Michael Portillo were stocking their wardrobes with the best political gear. There may not be much left for poor William, who could end up the boy in class who copies everyone else.

In fairness, it is not his fault

that Labour has stolen a march. The horse had bolted by the time he went looking for the reins.

As long ago as 1990, Neil Kinnock's front-bench team wore City suits at the Blackpool conference. Since then, Labour has discovered the New Wave British tailors, acquiring for its own the look that now defines the country's prosperous middle youth. Tony Blair went to Paul Smith before his last Washington trip, and also frequents Malcolm Levine, a tailor who dresses film stars.

At the suggestion of Dylan Jones, another style journalist, Gordon Brown patronised Timothy Everest, the East End tailor, for his first Budget day suit. When Blair asked where it was from Brown allegedly refused to tell him. Peter Mandelson has sewn up Richard James and Oswald Boateng.

But the remaking of Portillo must have been the greatest blow. While Hague was con-



ducting an ill-judged flirtation with baseball caps, Portillo was selecting casual check shirts and beige slacks. Earlier this year, he told about 50 men in suits at the Institute of Economic Affairs how refreshing it would be to see "people wearing open-neck shirts, perhaps with an Armani jacket".

And having flattened his hair as a gesture of humility, he nonetheless lured Hague up a mountain, knowing full well that the wind would highlight Hague's trichological deficiencies. The contrast between Portillo's waxed jacket and Hague's anorak completed the assassination. As Alan Clark said, Hague looked as if he'd just had chemotherapy.

So it is fair to say that not since 1972, when Sir William Price, the Labour MP for Rugby, addressed the House in his overcoat because his trouser zip had broken, has a politician faced such a wardrobe crisis. Even Michael Foot's black donkey jacket does not seem quite so bad in retrospect.

Morgan has an unenviable task. He dresses in Savile Row suits and silk ties, and lives in secluded gentility off Piccadilly. But he must prepare Hague for an altogether rougher world in which his opponents are prepared to resort to celebrity hairdressers.

Morgan is staying shoom about his plans, but Mark Powell, the funky Soho tailor, says:

"I know John Morgan works with Timothy Everest, so he'll probably go there." There would be a certain poignancy to this: Everest dressed Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible*.

Hague must wish he could turn back the clock. Trevor Royle, an historian and sometime political commentator, notes: "William Pitt was an ugly little chap with a high-pitched voice. He performed well in Parliament at a time when a Parliamentarian was seen only by other parliamentarians. We can't disinvent the apparatus of current politics."

Double-breasted suits and big collars were the young Tories' badge of office when Major was in power, but now that

Labour has had its change of image, he looks like an old man.

Peter York, the image consultant famous for *The Sloane Rangers Handbook*, wonders if Hague isn't simply beyond rescue: "He has not related to his own generation at all; it is a bit late now."

Whatever outward impression he gives, Hague must, behind the scenes, try hard indeed, says Mary Spillane, the managing director of Colour Me Beautiful, an image consultancy.

"How televisual a politician is can make or break his/her political career." It almost makes one yearn for Harold Wilson and his Gannex mac.

IMAGE consultants agree that William Hague should stop trying so hard and choose a wardrobe that makes him look comfortable and credible.

Mary Spillane says that Mr Hague should stick to double-breasted suits—the look of John Major's Tory party—to make him appear bigger. "The problem is that if he wears single-breasted, he looks like a beanpole," she says. "With his light colouring, it means he can appear wimpish." She adds that Mr Hague should wear only light, blue-grey or charcoal suits, coloured shirts and warm, golden ties to brighten his fair complexion. His shirt collars should be cutaway to make his neck look wider. "In winter, he should be seen with a camel coat over his shoulder to create more bulk," she concludes.

Susie Faun, the managing director of Wardrobe Consultancy, says that Mr Hague should avoid bespoke suits as too conservative and British. She suggests an off-the-peg Ermenegildo Zegna suit, either double-breasted or high-buttoned and single-breasted, to make him appear more modern and European.

"Zegna has beautiful fabrics and modern styling, so he will not look as though he is trying too hard," says Ms Faun. But she adds that Mr Hague should discover his own look rather than taking advice. "He should look as if his appearance is effortless, the way Tony Blair does now."

Peter York reckons that Mr Hague's aim should be to look neither old-fashioned nor high fashion. "He should look like a decent powerbroker in his early forties, but nothing more specific."

Mr York says that Mr Hague should avoid 1980s-style pinstripes and double-breasted suits. He suggests a visit to a Savile Row tailor for some dark, single-breasted suits and bold ties.

JODY SCOTT

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By STEWART LEVINE
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

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BROWN'S BACK DOOR

The Chancellor signs Britain up to a socialist EU agenda

Tony Blair has been remarkably successful in embarking the debate both on economic and monetary union, and on Britain's broader strategic aims within the European Union. He has persuaded the public that it knows where this Government is headed; that British membership of EMU is a decision for the next Parliament, and that his aim in making this country a more active European player is to promote a deregulatory, free market EU agenda.

That is not the game, it turns out, that his Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has been playing behind the scenes. The British Government has been not merely a prominent actor, but the prime mover in the drawing up of a pan-socialist platform, *The New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of EMU*. This remarkable political document, which is being finalised in time for this weekend's *Ecofin meeting of EU finance ministers*, will be the launching pad for a concerted drive by the 11-strong centre-left majority in EU councils to set the agenda. It calls for far closer co-ordination of EU economic, fiscal and social and employment policies. For Britain, it represents a hugely important symbolic and practical commitment to closer EU integration, which goes far beyond what ministers have disclosed.

Work on this "people's Europe" blueprint began last February, under the British presidency. The vehicle has been the "informal" caucus of the Party of European Socialists within Ecofin. Its tone owes something to new Labour rhetoric. But its content, calling for "a new Social Contract for solidarity" and "the further development of the contract for social justice", an "active welfare state", "fair rules for competition" and "a set of common rules for the economic and social well being of European citizens", reflects the strong interventionist traditions of mainstream continental socialism. "A United Europe" is the socialist response to globalisation: "In European co-operation, we develop new transnational initiatives which alone are strong enough to guide and regulate global forces."

The influence of Oskar Lafontaine, the left-wing German Finance Minister with whom Mr Brown will co-ordinate strategy for the Ecofin meeting in London tomorrow, is unmistakable. The 11 governments commit themselves to higher disposable incomes - a policy which has already

brought Herr Lafontaine into confrontation with German industry - and "a new culture of regulation" for public utilities. They plan EU-wide legislative and administrative measures for small and medium-sized businesses, which Britain has hitherto maintained should be a purely national concern. Common economic and budgetary policies will be set "in conformity with the single monetary policy", specifically involving closer co-operation between countries inside and outside EMU "in order to ensure the European Way".

A key segment of the document explains why, when they met on Monday, Herr Lafontaine and his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, were so confident that taxes on savings and businesses would be harmonised within six months. While the EU is already committed to eliminating "unfair" tax competition - such as discriminatory treatment of foreign direct investment - this goes far further. It deplores EMU's potential to increase tax competition and pledges to avoid this "harmful" development by "co-ordinating savings and corporate taxation".

Socialist policy will not only target non-EU tax havens, such as the Channel Islands, but the trend among overtaxed and over-regulated EU corporations to invest in Central Europe and other emerging markets. Blithely disregarding the horror with which this would be greeted in Washington, the 11 assert that: "To avoid increasing flows of saving and investment from the EU towards third countries and European territories, to which the Treaty does not apply, we must actively promote an OECD-wide approach to tax policy co-ordination."

With this document, the Chancellor has committed Britain to European integration along frankly socialist lines. Nowhere do such ambitions figure in Labour's election manifesto. He may protest that it has no formal status; but given that it excludes only Spain, Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg, this "red-green" manifesto is a political reality. Mr Brown has let his determination to be part of the EMU-11 club ride roughshod over Cabinet responsibility. On matters of tax policy, a vital British interest, he has shown himself ready to sell the pass. Where stands the Prime Minister? In the dark? Or in his Chancellor's shadow? The only certainty is that the country has been kept in the dark.

LET THE PEOPLE CHOOSE

The Government should abandon closed list elections

Next week the Queen's Speech will be published. It will contain a Bill to abolish the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords. At the worst possible time, the Government's maladroit handling of the introduction of a new electoral system for the European Parliament has succeeded in turning Viscount Cranborne, heir to the Marquess of Salisbury and Conservative Leader in the House of Lords, into a champion of Britain's representative democracy. Yesterday Lord Cranborne marshalled his forces to reject - for a fourth time - the closed list system, which would allow voters to choose a party, but not an individual candidate. The Prime Minister accused the peers of committing "an affront to democracy". The real affront would be for the Government to force through a voting system which gives party machines more power at voters' expense.

The Government's intransigence has triggered a game of constitutional ping-pong. The Bill will be volleyed back and forth between the House of Commons and House of Lords until either the peers vote in favour of the Government's proposals, or the Government gives in. Failure to reach an agreement by the end of the parliamentary session, planned for this Friday, will force ministers either to drop the measure entirely (and stick with the current electoral system), or agree to the peers' amendment, or invoke the Parliament Act and force the Bill through the House of Lords in the next session.

The Prime Minister and Home Secretary would be foolish to bludgeon this Bill through the Upper House. The debate is not about the hereditary principle, as they suggest, but whether people's choice

should be replaced by parties' choice. In this case, the unelected peers are protecting the power of the electorate. The Government's attempt to distract the debate is a sign of its failure to make a convincing case in favour of closed lists. Few people may know who their MEP is. Closed lists might mean that more women and ethnic minorities were elected. Open lists - in which voters rank their preference for candidates - might create the anomaly whereby some candidates could be elected with fewer votes than others. Yet none of these arguments addresses the real issue: why should voters be stripped of the opportunity to choose the candidate they wish to represent them?

The Government's stubbornness has united politicians normally as far apart as Viscount Cranborne and the former Viscount Stansgate, Tony Benn. This issue has made ministers vulnerable to the charge that the selection of Labour's candidates for leader of the Welsh Assembly, mayor of London and for the European election is a disturbing feature of this Government's attitude to power. It prefers the "selectorate" to the electorate, preaching the virtues of devolution while practising the vices of centralisation. Worse still, critics argue, by abolishing the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords, the Government will emasculate the independence of the second chamber and replace it with a giant "closed list" of political appointees.

Ministers should realise that they have been outmanoeuvred. Tony Blair made trust a central issue at the general election. He should trust the people, and leave them with the power to choose which individuals they send to the European Parliament.

GRANNY'S MOUSE

The old meet the young in cyberspace

The onset of age is marked by the moment when you realise that your eight-year-old can reprogramme a video recorder more quickly than you. Baffled adults are quite accustomed to leaving technology to the tiny tots. But now a new survey suggests that the over-60s are among the most enthusiastic users of computers. Retiring types, it seems, are likely to spend as many as ten hours a week at the keyboard - a three hours longer than the average user. Computer course holidays have become a popular holiday option as the elderly go online for their leisure. Granny is a whiz with megabytes and mice.

For old people living in the countryside, or without easy access to transport, the information superhighway proves a valuable option as online shopping becomes more popular. And in other practical areas of life, the computer is already integral. Accounts are quickly tapped out on a computer keyboard. Pension plans are

explored on spreadsheets and desk-top publishing programs put out the latest edition of the parish newsletter.

But more important is the social role of the computer. Electronic technology fosters a precious bond between age and youth. Yesterday *The Times* reported a pioneering crèche scheme at a Sevenoaks old people's home in which pre-school children were cared for by elderly residents. Both age groups benefited enormously from the contact and the health authority responsible for the home intends to repeat its experiment. Clearly, in an era in which families are increasingly dispersed, this communication across a broad age span is enjoyable and beneficial. And electronic technology, it seems can help to foster it. As grandparents chatter to their grandchildren via e-mail, the age of innocence meets the age of experience in cyberspace. And all over the country silver-surfers are enjoying a second childhood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Heads' duties over drugs in schools

From Mr Peter Inson
Sir, The suggestion by Estelle Morris, School Standards Minister (report, November 17), that head teachers should not automatically expel pupils who are found in possession of illegal drugs in school, and her call for flexibility in these matters, will add to the difficulties of head teachers.

Schools are unusual in that they are part of a custodial system: they are responsible to parents for the safety and security of their children while they are at school. They cannot share with parents knowledge about poor or dangerous behaviour on the part of particular children who may be in close contact with their children while they are at school and, sometimes, on the way to and from school. The school alone has the responsibility and duty to act on behalf of all its parents in the light of this particular knowledge and parents have little option but to trust schools in these matters.

Many parents will insist, quite understandably, that they do not wish their children to be compelled to keep company with children who are involved with illegal drugs. Indeed, the notion that this is somehow acceptable is morally repugnant. Schools have to bear this in mind when acting on behalf of such parents.

The minister is concerned for the continuing education of pupils who are excluded from school. In the long term it would be more constructive to address the attitudes and actions of families so that it was more generally realised that access to a worthwhile education in a school worth attending depends on families presenting their children for education in a reasonably socialised and self-disciplined state.

I fear that the minister's comments will simply be used to make even more difficult the complex and fraught particular situations with real families with which head teachers have to deal.

Yours sincerely,
PETER INSON
(Headmaster,
Twyford High School, 1995-98),
15 Friary Crescent,
Sudbury, Middlesex HA0 2QQ.
peterinson@compuserve.com
November 17.

From the Headmaster of More House School, Frensham
Sir, As headmaster of a school for boys with specific learning difficulties who are inevitably vulnerable and very amenable to peer pressure, I have a totally draconian policy on drugs.

All boys, and their parents, know that if a student is found with any quantity of an illegal substance within his possession, at school, then he is expelled instantly.

During the last five years I have only had to make use of this measure on one occasion and my staff and I are convinced that this policy has kept the school so clear of drugs at a time when other establishments have had considerable difficulties. It is the only disciplinary area where we have such a stringent rule.

I would urge the minister to think again.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HUGGETT,
Headmaster, More House School,
Frensham,
Farnham, Surrey GU10 3AP,
November 17.

From Dr Alan Sked
Sir, Michael Portillo is right. The Tory party is now the only one with the political weight to lead the campaign against the euro (report, later editions, November 10; see also report and leading article, November 11). In fact, it is vital that the Tories should win the next election, since otherwise we face the prospect of a referendum on the single currency being weighted in favour of Brussels.

I for one am certainly ready to offer Mr Portillo my support in any plans he may be preparing to protect the pound. I trust, however, that the Tory party will be united over this.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED
(Leader, UK Independence Party, 1993-97),
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park,
Highbury, N5 2BH,
November 11.

From Lord Rogers of Riverside
Sir, Your report today on the plan for the Welsh assembly by my practice states that there are "charges of cronyism" as I am a "Labour colleague of the former Prime Minister in the Upper House". One of the pleasures of the competition was to meet Lord Callaghan of Cardiff for the first time.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ROGERS,
House of Lords,
November 13.

From Mrs A. J. Wilcock
Sir, I have always used the phonetic alphabet for addresses and postcodes as necessary for clarity on the phone, but this is not always appreciated.

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The Archangel Memorial to the Missing, which covers both the Archangel and Murmansk civil-war fronts in 1918 and 1919 as well as a few other officers and men lost in Russia during the First World War, records some 210 missing. The vast majority of them fell on the Archangel front in 1919, which was the scene of the heaviest fighting, and these men could not have been buried at Kandalaksha.

If the "dozens" are being tentatively identified as British because of their uniforms then it is much more likely

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Was this done to avoid gender bias or have I missed the storming of another male bastion?

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

London Tube fares 'unfairly high'

From Mr Illyd Harrington
Sir, You kindly published a letter from me (February 28, 1997) which warned about the damage to the social and economic life of the capital caused by London Transport's high fares (letters, November 16). They were, I said, the highest in Europe.

Within three hours I received a letter by courier from the then chairman of London Transport, re-buking and indeed correcting me. Dublin had that coveted position, he said sharply. And anyway, the weekly, monthly and annual ticket blunted the impact. I found his comments over-protective.

Well, now we await the next hike in the new year (report, October, 27) but no one wants to revert to the formula of the 1970s, which was based upon a revenue competition of an equitable distribution between local and national taxpayer as well as the passenger.

Try as I may I cannot see privatisation easing the burden on the commuter, metropolitan man, or indeed the tourist. A single journey on the Tube within zone one is now £1.30 and "travel cards" are £13, £15 and £20 for a week, a month and a year respectively; all of which seems to produce an overcrowded and unreliable service.

Surely the answer cannot be ever-increasing fares and decreasing efficiency. Why do European cities do better? I await the arrival of London Transport's courier. At least GLC's Fare's Fair worked.

Yours sincerely,
ILLYD HARRINGTON
(Deputy Leader, GLC, 1973-85),
16 Lea House,
Salisbury Street, NW8 8BJ,
November 16.

Voting for candidate, not party

From Mr Warwick Cairns
Sir, Peter Riddell (article, November 17) says that a problem with the open-list system in elections is that it "encourages candidates of the same party to compete against each other".

That is exactly what is good about it: you see, I want to vote for a candidate who opposes the euro - I don't particularly care whether they are Labour or Conservative - and if I can't choose my candidate, there is absolutely no way that I will vote and allow the party bosses to give my "endorsement" to a Europhile.

Under the closed-list system, my vote for a party can be counted as a vote for a candidate supporting a cause that I utterly disapprove of. That can't be democracy.

Yours sincerely,
WARWICK CAIRNS,
68 Grove Road,
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1HS,
November 17.

From the Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society
Sir, The tennis game which the Government and the Lords are playing with the European Parliamentary Elections Bill does no credit to either.

Proposals from a Government which won a decisive electoral victory are being blocked repeatedly by unelected opposition peers, people who have no democratic legitimacy. Here, surely, is further proof of the need for reform of the Lords.

Ironically, however, on this occasion the matter on which a majority of their lordships have dug in their heels is the protection of voters' rights. While the elected Government demands closed lists which deny electors the right to choose their MEPs, it is the unelected Lords who have thrice resisted.

That does not, unfortunately, mean that their position is entirely virtuous. Some opposition peers have stood courageously against an electoral system which hands yet more power to the party machines, but many more, I fear, are more motivated by a

From Mr Peter Shortell
Sir, In referring to Peter Shore's 33-year tenure as MP for Stepney, Robert Evans, MEP (letter, November 17), manages to make precisely the wrong point. If the electorate had really disliked Shore they would indeed have voted for another party.

That is, after all, what happened to John Taylor in Cheltenham in 1992 when, to their shame, a sufficient number decided they preferred a white Liberal to a black Conservative.

A closed party list exaggerates a defect in the current system. I want to be able to express my opinion on the candidates as well as on the party.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SHORTELL,
81 Hales Road,
Cheltenham GL52 6SR,
pshortell@bigfoot.com
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Is this not what the Communists called the Nomenklatura?

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1,000 years on the back of a stamp

From Dr Hannes W. Kleineke
Sir, The Royal Mail's - or is it Professor Black's - view of the past 1,000 years of British history, as represented on the recently launched millennium stamps (report, November 13), is oddly out of balance. It is striking that only six out of 48 stamps celebrate individuals, events or achievements dating from the first 500 years of the present millennium, while more than twice as many represent the 20th century.

Even the choice of themes representing the medieval period is strange: one of the few individuals honoured is Robert the Bruce, but he appears under the heading of "Soldiers' tale". While Robert's military achievements are not to be denigrated, he seems a peculiar choice to stand for the whole of medieval warfare, if that is the intention. Might I tentatively suggest that he is being included as a token gesture to Scottish national sentiment?

While Dr Who and Bobby Moore are characters familiar to the present generation, their cultural significance compared with some of the great works of medieval art which could have been celebrated (Chaucer, or manuscript illumination, to name just two possibilities) is surely limited.

Do the last 98 years really sum up and subsume most of the preceding 900?

Yours faithfully,
HANNES KLEINEKE,
17F Cherry Orchard,
Staines, Middlesex TW18 2DE.
hkleineke@ispnet.ac.uk
November 13.

From Dr Richard Marshall
Sir, I noted with interest that nuclear power did not make it as a millennium tale.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD MARSHALL,
(Head of physics),
Oakham School,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6QT.
rm@oakham.rutland.sch.uk
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Battle of Waterloo

From Mr Alan Magrath
Sir, The French do not have to worry about past battles (letters, November 7 and 13). What matters is the present and future. They can be proud that, while they hurtle at 180mph on Eurostar through northern France, they have to slow to less than half that speed across the Channel because the English cannot be bothered to invest in their own country.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MAGRATH,
7 Pageant Walk,
Croydon CR0 5UG.
alan.magrath@btinternet.com
November 13.

From Mr Kenneth W. F. Rich
Sir, Perhaps M. Longuepue should arrange future visits to London so that he arrives at Victoria station - he will then be able, as he awaits his turn for a taxi, to admire the statue of that great Frenchman, Marshal Foch.

Sincerely,
KENNETH W. F. RICH,
Marylands, South Hill Avenue,
Harrow on the Hill, HA1 3NZ,
November 13.

From Mr Robert Wilton
Sir, The indispensable 1066 and all that reminds us that Richard the Lionheart travelled through France so often on his way to war that he was known as Richard Gare de Lyon.

Would it not avoid all difficulty if we were in future to ensure that all battles were fought at railway stations?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WILTON,
67 St Peter's Street,
Istington, NI 8TR,
November 13.

From Mr Gerald Vinestock
Sir, I don't mind if the French want to rename the Gare du Nord, but why "Fontenoy"? Wasn't he that little Lord Chappy in the book by someone or another?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD VINESTOCK,
2 Overhead Cottages, Capemwray,
Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1AD,
November 13.

From Mr Neil Wats
Sir, How about renaming Waterloo Eau de toilette?

Yours,
N. WATTS,
47 Kings Chase,
Crowthorne, East Sussex TN6 1RQ,
November 13.

Boy dies after rail game

Boy dies after rail game

Boy dies after rail game

Boy dies after rail game

Boy dies after rail game

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.J. Angelini-Hurl and Miss R. Deacon... The engagement is announced between Nieran, younger son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Angelini-Hurl of London, SW1...

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 17: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning. Her Majesty held a Council at 6.15 pm.



Two members of the Contemporary Art Society move a Bed of Roses, valued at £2,500 and on show at the society's annual art market which opens today at the Festival Hall

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the Financial Services Authority building at 25, The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14...

Memorial service

General Sir Harry Tazo The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by General Sir Michael Walker...

Service luncheon

Officers of Court and City Yeomanry Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry...

Reception

Maritime Foundation Maritime Mountbatten of Burma, President of the Maritime Foundation, presented the 1988 Desmond Western Maritime Media Award...

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce Dr Conrad Strauss was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce...

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Dewi Bridges, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 65; Sir Kenneth Chace, former chief servant, 77; Professor C.D. Cowan, former Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, 75...

Church news

Canon Peter Kearney Hullah, Headmaster of Chesham School, of Misses and Leschelle, Canon of the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denis and St George in Manchester...

PERSONAL

ALENCAR - On November 13th at The Portland Hospital to Ana Beatriz (nee Fernandes Castro) and Alex, a daughter, Tiziana.

DEATHS

BEALE - Colin Langford after a brief illness and a fall on November 10th aged 65. Greatly loved husband of Joan (nee Dight), loyal and loving father to John, Robert, Elizabeth and Alison...

BIRTHS

SCOTTHEWITT - On November 15th at The Portland Hospital to Vicki and a daughter, Esme Florence.

DEATHS

ROOHLER - On November 15th 1988, Arthur Rank House, Cambridge, aged 76. Much loved by Lesley, Anna, Paul, family and many friends.

DEATHS

GRIFPIN - Thomas (F.R.C.S.) died peacefully on November 15th 1988 aged 84 peacefully at home after a long illness.

DEATHS

GRISON - Donald Jeffrey MBE, Order of the Crown of Thailand, on 14th November 1988, in Chiang Mai, Thailand aged 78.

PERSONAL

PERSONAL notices including obituaries and family news.

Large advertisement for 'PERSONAL' services, including 'PERSONAL', 'DEATHS', 'BIRTHS', 'MARRIAGES', 'WANTED', 'TICKETS FOR SALE', 'OVERSEAS TRAVEL', 'MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS', 'FLATWARE', 'FARE', 'MARRIAGES', 'BIRTHDAYS', 'WANTED', 'TICKETS FOR SALE'.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID LANE

Sir David Lane, former chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality and Conservative MP for Cambridge, 1967-76, died on November 16 aged 76. He was born on September 24, 1922.



Lane in 1977: he won the confidence of black community leaders

David Lane was the first chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), a body which was established by the Labour Government in 1976 to combine the functions of the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission. The aim of the new body was to make more efficient the work of its two predecessors in trying to improve race relations not only between immigrant and indigenous communities, but between immigrant communities themselves. The promise was that the CRE would have greater, more concentrated power than its predecessors, and that a whole range of issues, from consultation with community leaders to the investigation of racial discrimination practices whether in the workplace or society at large, would be tackled more vigorously than they had been before.

Though a Conservative — a party at that time seen as being less sympathetic to ethnic communities and their problems than the Labour Party — Lane was as well qualified for his task as any. As a constituency worker he had lived in North Kensington and had seen the effects of the Notting Hill race riots at close quarters. As a junior minister in the Conservative Government of 1970-74 he had been responsible for race relations.

Yet when he left his post in 1982 both he and his organisation were under a cloud. In 1981, under a successor Conservative Government which was by nature suspicious of anything that smacked of the quango, an all-party Home Affairs Committee had delivered a stinging report on the CRE and the way it was run. Although Lane had come to the natural end of his period of tenure, it was widely felt that he would have remained in his post had the report not criticised him and his work so bitterly.

David William Stannis Stuart Lane was educated at Eton where he was a scholar and member of the cricket XI. He left Eton to go up to Cambridge where he read Classics. But war soon intervened and at the end of his first year he volunteered for the Royal Navy, joining as an ordinary seaman, he subsequently obtained a commission and served until the end of the war in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

the Classical Tripos. After graduation he spent a year at Yale University, doing research as a Henry Fund Fellow.

In 1948 he joined the British Iron and Steel Confederation and, after a period at the Administrative Staff College at Henley-on-Thames, became its Secretary in 1956. In the meantime he had been called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1955. From 1959 to 1967 Lane was employed at a senior level by the Shell International Petroleum Company.

Lane entered politics as a voluntary constituency worker, holding various posts in the North Kensington Conservative Association, including that of constituency chairman from 1961 to 1962. Living, as he did, in this constituency, he came face to face with racial problems and the first major eruption of violence at Notting Hill in 1958. Later, in the general election of 1964, he contested the

Labour constituency of Lambeth Vauxhall, where there was a substantial black immigrant community.

Lane contested Cambridge as the Conservative candidate in the 1966 general election. Although he was narrowly defeated, he was elected to Parliament for the constituency a year later, at a by-election following the sudden death of the Labour MP Robert Davies. He represented Cambridge in the House of Commons until, in the autumn of 1976, he became chairman-designate of the Commission for Racial Equality.

From 1972 until 1974 Lane was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, with special responsibility for race relations. In this post, his previous experience in North Kensington, where he continued to live, and in Vauxhall, proved to be of great value.

In the late 1960s and the early 1970s the Conservative Party was, rightly

or wrongly, regarded by ethnic immigrants as being less sympathetic to their problems than the Labour Party. In 1972 and 1973 Lane was heavily involved in the task of re-settling East African Asians with British passports who had been summarily expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. He won the confidence of the community leaders of the ethnic minorities of all races in Britain, while not in any way forfeiting the respect of his fellow Conservatives in Parliament.

Lane fully supported the Race Relations Act of 1976, which toughened the penalties for unfair discrimination and then amalgamated the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission into the Commission for Racial Equality. Although Lane's appointment to the post of chairman of the new body by the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, caused some surprise in certain quarters, he was well fitted for this new role. Nevertheless he was aware that to accept this appointment would mean resignation from his parliamentary seat and the end of his political career. Not surprisingly he cogitated for a week before accepting.

A lean and wiry man, Lane made it clear from the start that he was a tough and determined realist rather than a well-meaning liberal. But in the very nature of the beast his stewardship was dogged by problems from the start. There was controversy about the first attempts to fill posts in the commission, with complaints from the black community that there had been inadequate consultation about top appointments. At the same time Lane was subjected to a barrage of abuse — letters and phone calls — from white racists.

Legislation to empower the CRE to conduct formal investigations into the practices of particular organisations also attracted criticism. This came both from white conservatives who objected to what they saw as the interference of do-gooding nosy-parkers, and from the ethnic communities who felt that additional powers granted to the CRE would restrict their ability to run their social organisations as best suited their customs and traditions.

The police, too, had their say. James Anderson, then Chief Constable of Greater Manchester made a widely publicised call for the dismantling of Britain's "outmoded and expensive" race relations machinery. Individual politicians, especially those of the Right, continually criticised the CRE for straying from its remit of race relations into the political arena.

But more damaging than any of these accusations was the feeling that, whatever mistakes it made in

carrying out its remit (and, given the colossal tasks facing it, it could hardly be blamed for that), the CRE could not even keep its own house in order. From 1979 onwards there were internal clashes arising from the new Conservative Government's immigration policies, leading to legal arguments over whether the commission had the right to investigate the Immigration Service. In 1980, amid damaging publicity, four black and Asian commissioners lost their jobs on the CRE.

At the same time there was a growing feeling that the CRE was becoming top-heavy on bureaucracy and that its achievements — in terms of awarding grants for community projects, supporting ethnic sports clubs, contributing funds to international conferences — were becoming increasingly cost-ineffective. In April 1981, Charles Boxer, the CRE's director of community affairs and liaison, resigned, claiming that Lane could not understand the CRE's own reports and hardly ever acted on them.

Matters came to a head that year when a House of Commons inquiry into the CRE reported that it had totally failed to do anything effective with the legal powers that had been granted to it: that in four years it had only completed a quarter of the reviews and investigations it had initially announced — and that they were the least important ones. The committee's final observation was that, overall, the CRE was incompetent and wasteful.

Lane fought back at his critics, accusing them of being politically motivated and deliberately unsympathetic to the complexities and magnitude of the CRE's problems. Nevertheless, he retired from his post in the following year and was knighted in 1983.

It was not the end of his involvement in race relations. His advice continued to be sought on racial problems and when, in 1987, the Conservative Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, announced a special independent inquiry into the racial equality programme in schools in the London Borough of Brent, Lane was chosen to visit the borough to sound out parents and governors.

In retirement he also continued active in his local church and in youth work. From 1982 to 1987 he was chairman of the National Association of Youth Clubs. He continued to play cricket and always enjoyed a round of golf.

In 1955 Lane married Lesley Anne Mary Clauson. She and two sons survive him.

ALGIS ZHURAITIS

Algis Zhuraitis, conductor of the Bolshoi Ballet, died in Moscow on October 25 aged 70. He was born in Lithuania on July 27, 1928.

It was for his work with ballet, however, that he became most widely known and admired. Besides the standard repertoire, he co-operated with many choreographers on the preparation and premieres of their creations.

THE back of Algis Zhuraitis's head, with its mass of dark wavy hair, became a welcome sight to audiences in Britain and elsewhere around the world as he took his place in the orchestra pit to conduct a performance by the Bolshoi Ballet. His presence ensured not only that the music would provide wonderfully effective support for the evening's dancing but that it would also match it in quality.

The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow has long had a strong tradition of exceptional playing for its ballet. When the Russian company made its first visit to the West in 1956, it was the blind veteran conductor Yuri Faier who shared the acclaim with the ballerina Galina Ulanova at the historic opening performance of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, and his direction of the Covent Garden Orchestra in more familiar scores during the course of the season was a revelation after their frequently lacklustre showing for the Royal Ballet.

Nor was Faier alone in achieving these high standards. He alternated that season with the young Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, making his London debut, and when the even younger Zhuraitis joined them on the Bolshoi staff soon afterwards, he did not let down the standard either.

Born in Raseiniai in Lithuania, Algis Martsevich Zhuraitis had graduated from the piano class of the Vilnius Conservatory in 1950 and had made his debut as a conductor at the Vilnius Opera the following year. A further year on, however, he moved to Moscow, becoming conductor of the Radio Symphony Orchestra and also attending N. P. Anosov's conducting classes at the Moscow Conservatory.

His appointment to the Bolshoi staff came in 1960, and over the years he was to direct a vast repertoire of both opera and ballet, as well as making regular appearances with symphony orchestras around the world.

In particular, he worked with the long-term "star" of the Bolshoi Ballet, Yuri Grigorovich, on his new version of *Swan Lake*, on *Ivan the Terrible* to music by Prokofiev, on *Angara*, a modern subject with a score by Andrei Esphai, and on a new treatment of *Romeo and Juliet* mounted for the Ballet of the Paris Opera and subsequently transferred to Moscow.

Notable among the many other new productions with which Zhuraitis was associated in his career were Gole-



zovsky's *Scriabiniana*, the early *Spartacus* staged by Leonid Jacobson, Oleg Vinogradov's well-regarded historical drama *Asel* to music by V. Vlasov, Maris Liepa's reconstruction of *Le Spectre de la Rose*, Vladimir Vasiliev's *Igoris* (with music by Sergei Iorinsky) and the Prokofiev *Lieutenant Kizhe*, choreographed by Olga Tarasova and Alexander Lapauri. These and many others demanded from the conductor mastery of an extremely wide range of musical idioms and styles, and Zhuraitis gave every appearance of relishing the challenge.

Zhuraitis was awarded the title People's Artist of the Russian Republic in 1976. He is survived by his wife, the distinguished soprano Elena Obrahkova.

MAJOR-GENERAL HARRY OWEN

Major-General Harry Owen, CB, Director of Army Legal Services, 1969-71, and Chairman of the NHS Medical Appeals Tribunal, 1972-84, died on October 26 aged 87. He was born on July 17, 1911.



Owen: relished the varied challenges of Army legal work

HAD war not been declared in 1939, Harry Owen might well have begun his intended legal career very differently. He had taken a degree in philosophy at University College, Bangor, in 1934 and had completed his training as a solicitor in early 1932. But, with war clouds gathering, he accepted an emergency commission in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, with whom he served for three years before joining the military department of the office of the Judge Advocate General in 1943.

At the end of the war he did much work on preparation of papers for trials by British military courts of war criminals, including those arising from the notorious Ravensbrück concentration camp.

His early service on the JAG's staff was with the Canadians, with 21st Army Group and in West Africa Command before going out to the Middle East and then East Africa Command, where he was granted a regular commission after the war. He undertook many court-martial prosecutions and proved himself to be a fair-minded prosecutor, if one with terrier-like persistence.

His decision to stay on in the

Army instead of returning to his original career was surprising to some. He was a quiet, devoted family man, always courteous, with a nice sense of humour. He was also extremely thorough, with an eye for detail. He had a reputation, which even in old age he never lost, of being a dapper individual whose turnout was always immaculate, with a touch of individualistic originality about it. His well-tailored battle dress, for instance, was

of a shade of green not worn by other officers of the Army Legal Services.

His reason for not returning to civilian practice was simple: he had enjoyed the wide challenges he had experienced during the war and in its immediate aftermath. Staying on in the Army Legal Services, he took part in the many crises during the withdrawal from Empire and the development of the Cold War.

He served in the Middle

East, 1947-50; Austria, 1952-53; the Far East, 1960-62; and BAOR, 1962-67. Promoted brigadier in 1965, he exercised a firm and thoroughly professional command of all BAOR's legal staffs at a time when they were grossly overstretched, prosecuting by court martial every crime in the criminal calendar from murder downwards. In his supervision, he demonstrated his skills as a first-class criminal lawyer and man-manager. Moreover, his advocacy before the General Staff won the necessary increases in establishment and a consequent improvement of morale.

He reached the zenith of his military career in 1969 as Director and professional head of Army Legal Services. His officers in distant parts of the world were aware of his firm hand on the tiller. He was a deeply compassionate and tolerant man, but there could never be any doubt that he meant what he said, as the incorrigibly idle or merely incompetent soon found out.

After he retired in 1971 and had been appointed CB for his services, he made a great success of his 12 years as chairman of the NHS Medical Appeals Tribunal, 1972-84. He took much pride in the humane handling and settlement of the many claims for children whose health had been seriously damaged by various vaccinations.

He married Maureen Summers in 1952. She and their son and daughter survive him.

THE ROYAL FILM PERFORMANCE

The King and Queen went to see a special performance last night at the Odéon Cinema, Marble Arch, in aid of the Cinemaograph Trade Benevolent fund. The film was *The Forsyte Saga*, and it was followed by a stage show in which British and American film actors shared.

After the white lights and the cheerful din outside, the waiting auditorium was decorously dim until their Majesties appeared, when floodlights in the proscenium wall suddenly illuminated the front of the balcony, the company rose and clapped, and the band played the National Anthem.

ON THIS DAY

November 18, 1949

The Royal Family have not always had the best of luck when faced with the film chosen for them; The Forsyte Saga with Errol Flynn as Soames Forsyte might raise an eyebrow, but the stage show that followed gave great pleasure.

mediated between Mr Michael Wilding and Mr Gregory Peck in a little confusion of language. Mr Anton Keras played the zither, as he does in *The Third Man*. Mr John Mills made a public speech. Mr Alec Guinness acted. Miss Greer Garson and Mr Walter Winiger were Mr and Mrs Miniver with a difference. It was, in short, an affair that delighted the audience, and would have seemed very heaven to the eager and fascinated through outside.

Naturally enough before *The Forsyte Saga* was shown anticipation was tinged with some

misgivings. Miss Greer Garson, well, yes: Mr Walter Fidgeon, perhaps, but it was difficult to imagine how Mr Errol Flynn would fit into the period and the caste of which Galsworthy wrote. Even those who most underestimate Galsworthy would acknowledge the value of his greatest work as a guide to the life and mentality of a certain social class at a certain period in English history. "The given proposition was, that we were all 'good people'." The words are not Galsworthy's, but they may stand as representative of the Forsytes, and the question as to how this "given proposition" would be reflected on the screen remained.

The answer must be as well as can be expected considering the variety of accents, the fact that few of the players bear any physical resemblance to the characters as Galsworthy's readers imagine them, and what appears to be deliberate willingness in the casting. Mr Flynn is asked to play, of all people, Soames, and, considering the natural handicaps he has to overcome, he does surprisingly well; when he does fail, it is not for want of trying. Miss Garson has a great deal to do as Irene, but somehow the graciousness and charm are lacking, and Mr Pidgeon, as young Jolyon, has the ungrateful cast of popping in and out and acting as a kind of commentator on the protracted proceedings.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

NEWS

Left-wing manifesto for Europe

Britain is to join France, Germany and eight other European Union countries in a left-wing policy manifesto that commits the Government to common cause with the states inside the monetary union.

Uniting in a single manifesto, the social democrat parties that now dominate the EU are to pledge themselves to co-ordinate economic policies for growth, including a push for harmonising taxes.

Peers again reject closed poll plan

The House of Lords yesterday staged a huge display of defiance against the Government when peers rejected for a fourth time plans to restrict voter choice in the European elections. The peers insisted they had the right to ask the commons to think again.

School battle

Britain's few remaining grammar schools will face an annual battle for survival under government regulations approved by MPs last night.

Drug advice blast

Head teachers yesterday criticised the Government's call for leniency over pupils caught with drugs as Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, defended her advice not to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach.

Treasure hunt sham

When a man called Stuart Pen-dragon walked into his civic offices and said he was a long-lost brother of Prince Charles who needed permission to dig up a traffic island to find treasure, what did the council chief do? He gave it to him.

Parkinson drug ban

A drug for treating Parkinson's disease has been withdrawn after three patients died of liver disease. The European Commission has requested that member states suspend the use of Tasmart, made by Roche.

New Zealand tragedy

A British woman has been swept to her death off a remote stretch of the north-eastern New Zealand coast after she and her husband lost their four-day battle to steer their damaged yacht through stormy seas.

Terriers overhaul

Many of Britain's famous regiments, such as the Green Howards, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters will be cut back in the restructured and reduced Territorial Army announced by George Robertson.

Dinosaur skin found

Scientists have for the first time discovered perfectly preserved baby dinosaur skin, fossilised in eggs at an ancient nesting site. The site in Patagonia was evidently used by dinosaurs 70 to 90 million years ago.

Human zoo inquiry

A report in The Times exposing a "human zoo" camp in Thailand, where 21 children from a long-necked Burmese hill tribe were kept on show for tourists, forced a Thai Government inquiry that led to its closure, a northern Thailand court heard.

US blamed for unrest

In a blistering attack on the United States for inciting political dissidence, the Malaysian Government said that Washington would shoulder the blame for any further street protests.

Moulin death claim

Jean Moulin, the French Resistance hero who died after being tortured by the Gestapo in 1943, fell into the hands of the Germans because of bungled American espionage and not resistance treachery.

Silver surfers dominate the Net

Britons are increasingly turning off the television and turning to the home computer, which can now be found in one in four households. Among the keenest are computer users over 60, who have earned the nickname "silver surfers" by spending ten hours a week at the keyboard, three hours longer than average.



More than 163 trees have swapped foliage for foil in the Beyerle Foundation's Wrapped Trees exhibition in Riehen, Switzerland

BUSINESS

Pensions: Shareholders of insurance companies involved in pensions mis-selling should bear a substantial share of compensation costs, says the Treasury Select Committee.

Shanghai express: Fierce rivalry between Virgin Atlantic and British Airways is flaring up again as they vie to be first to fly from London to Shanghai.

News at Ten: Thirty of the UK's largest advertisers have put their weight behind the plan by the ITV companies to move News at Ten.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 7.8 to 5502.7. The sterling index rose to 100.9 from 100.8, with the pound rising 0.03 cents to \$1.6758 and 0.48 pence to DM2.7972.

SPORT

Football: Leading clubs have accepted Uefa's proposals for a 32-team European Champions' League, which they want to start next season.

Cricket: John Crawley will be fit to be selected by England for the first Test against Australia in Brisbane but Michael Atherton will only be selected if fit.

Athletics: Thirty years after winning an Olympic gold medal, David Hemery has been voted into the most powerful post in British athletics.

Simon Barnes: The jockey's desire to win is the final ingredient in the preparation of a racehorse to win a race. A jockey who gets a reputation as a softie will find himself unemployed.

ARTS

Saint George: The actor George Clooney knows how fickle fame and fortune can be - but with his new movie Out of Sight he thinks he has cracked it.

Feast of faith: You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy the fast and furious pace of the performers at the London International Jewish Music Festival.

Take a bow: This week sees the publication of two remarkable books that between them pay handsome tribute to the matchless craft of the great Cremonese violin-makers.

Musical trees: Stephen Sondheim's Into the Woods gets the intimate Donmar treatment, but Benedict Nightingale gets lost in the undergrowth.

FEATURES

Robotbabes: Making robots look more like babies in need of nurture encourages humans.

The late William: A style expert is giving William Hague a makeover. But is he too late?

Corporate America: "Hi, Im Penny," says our guide as we sit down. "I'm a trained nurse and I'm now working in corporate America!" Joanna Coles has a hospital "moment".

Street cred: A telling index of change in the housing market is provided by a quiet street in Chelsea.

THE PAPERS

The deal negotiated by eight state attorneys general and the tobacco industry would do far too little to combat teenage smoking, the primary goal that any legal settlement should advance. Instead, this proposal is mostly a financial agreement in which the companies would pay off state lawsuits for Medicaid costs incurred for smoking-related diseases.

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RADIO & TV

Preview: Ian Gruffy returns as C.S. Forester's naval hero, Hornblower (ITV, 8pm) Review: Joe Joseph on an intimate glimpse into Saddam's Iraq... Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Brown's back door

On matters of tax policy, a vital British interest, Gordon Brown has shown himself ready to sell the EU pass. Where stands the Prime Minister? In the dark? Or in his Chancellor's shadow? Page 19

Let the people choose

Tony Blair made trust a central issue at the general election. He should trust the people, and leave them with the power to choose which individuals they send to the European Parliament. Page 19

Granny's mouse

Granny is a whizz when it comes to mice and megabytes. Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

What is the point of the blood-curdling threats against a man who has broken his word at least six times, only to let him do so again? If Britain and America wanted to send the famous "bombing message", last Sunday was the day. Page 18

BRONWEN MADDOX

No one would begrudge New Orleans its new serenity, but the jails are stuffed full and the children are under curfew. These emergency measures cannot last forever. Page 18

ALAN COREN

So the credit card promised that it would say more about us than cash ever could. For it had concluded that what we most wanted the world to say about us was that we had so much money that we didn't need money at all. Page 18

OBITUARIES

Sir David Lane, former Conservative MP and chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality; Major-General Harry Owen, Director of Army Legal Services, 1969-71; Algis Zurauskis, Bolshoi Ballet conductor. Page 21

LETTERS

Drugs in schools; London Tube fares; millennium stamps; battle over Waterloo station; closed-list voting system; Russian mass grave. Page 19



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown sees Jean Reno (and Robert DeNiro) in Ronin, a French crime thriller

BOOKS The intriguing history of the sex aid. Plus Elaine Showalter, Gerald Jacobs, Elisabeth Luard

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,952

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating starting points for words.

- ACROSS 1 Travelled round in American ballet (5). 4 Cooks a little plant (6,3). 9 Showing regular patients encountered in poem - good only at the beginning (9). 10 Story that may be used in making a picture (5). 11 Remove Austen's novel (6). 12 Engagement ring composer has on (8). 16 Special port I decant into mixture (9). 16 Longs to protect members of clan (5). 17 Traveller taking turn around end of liner's deck (5). 19 Simple type Society treated with fitness (4,5). 21 Creature with excellent vision and wisdom? (5,3). 22 One's powerless to take flight (6). 25 Witness trapping partners in hearing, perhaps (5).

A solution to a crossword puzzle, showing the words filled into the grid.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for UK regions (North, Midlands, South, etc.) and their corresponding road and weather conditions.

World City Weather

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like London, New York, Tokyo, etc.

Motoring

Table listing motoring information such as fuel prices and road closures.

Hours of Darkness

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

Newspapers Support Recycling

Recycled paper made up 40.5% of the new material for UK newspapers in 1997.

QUICK CLUE NO 2

Costs £197,000 per day to stay afloat, not state funded (£8,8.11.) (See right.)

FORECAST

General: In E parts of Scotland and England frost and patchy fog slowly lifting, then heavy rain. Scottish Glens will stay very cold and may stay below freezing all day. Midlands, most of N England cold, largely dry, weak sunshiny. SW Scotland, Wales, W Country cloudy with rain and hill-snow melting out. Intermittent rain in N Ireland; west brighter later. Tonight, frosty again in E Scotland and E and SE England.

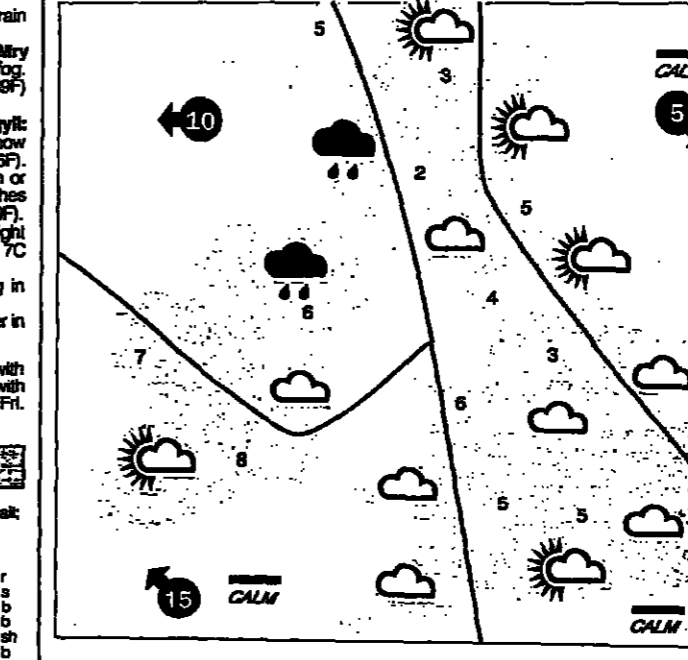
AROUND BRITAIN

A circular weather forecast map showing conditions around Britain with a central text box.

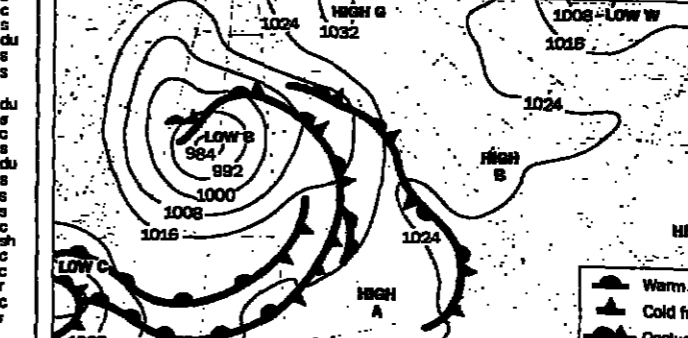
ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



WINDS

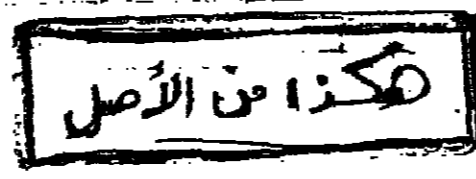


HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various coastal locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table of highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.



Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Fed cu', 'Advertis back ITV News at', and 'Flying pic for Mickey'.

THE TIMES

NOVEMBER 18 1998

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INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ECONOMICS Janet Bush says doomsday danger is not yet averted PAGE 27



ARTS Clare Burt scares up a storm for Sondheim PAGES 32-34



SPORT Hemery assumes position of power in British athletics PAGES 37-44

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998

Fed cuts US rates to 4-year low

By ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT THE Federal Reserve last night reduced US interest rates to their lowest level in four years in a renewed effort to ward off the impact of the global financial turmoil. The Fed said it was reducing its key Fed Funds by a quarter point to 4.75 per cent because although the markets had been quieter in recent weeks, "unusual strains remained". It was the third time the Fed has cut rates in the past six weeks including an emergency quarter-point cut last month. Although the cut had been anticipated it helped Wall Street to recover from early losses. The move came as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development talked on member countries to reduce interest rates rapidly to head off the threat of a full-blown global recession. The OECD claims in its autumn Economic Outlook that although there are signs financial markets are stabilising, considerable risks remain. It singles out Japan's inability to revive its moribund economy and the fact that the rebound in world share prices has left markets looking overvalued again. It also warns the Bank of England against delaying further rate cuts, claiming that the fears about wages pressures have been exaggerated. The OECD predicted that Britain is facing a sharper economic slowdown than either the Bank or the Treasury are anticipating, but stopped short of forecasting an outright recession. It predicted that growth next year would slow to 0.8 per cent — compared with a Treasury forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent — before rebounding to 1.5 per cent in 2000. It is forecasting rates will fall to about 6 per cent by the end of next year and to 5 per cent in 2000. However, the OECD claimed that Gordon Brown will still "comfortably" meet his borrowing rules, despite its lower growth predictions. New data published yesterday confirmed the Chancellor remains on course to post a full-year Budget surplus. Inflation hit its target level for the third consecutive month, although the OECD cautioned that the introduction of the minimum wage next year could generate fresh inflationary pressures. The OECD has also sharply downgraded its forecast for global economic growth, although Ignazio Visco, chief economist, said that the chances of a global recession is "certainly much less than the 40 to 50 per cent we were predicting two months ago." It gave warning that stock markets are at risk from fresh falls because the recent recovery had "failed to take account of an overvaluation in equity markets". Such a decline could make banks more reluctant to lend money, exacerbating the credit crunch faced by borrowers. "In the US and in the euro area, monetary policy should remain biased towards easing, as inflation risks have reduced," the OECD said. However, it warned left-leaning European governments against taking an activist economic stance arguing "there is still a need to reduce public debt to levels sustainable over the longer term." The OECD expects economic growth in member economies to average 1.7 per cent next year, down from an April forecast of 2.5 per cent. Growth will reach to 2.25 per cent in 2000.

By ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT JAPAN yesterday suffered the ignominy of losing its prime credit status, a move that left the embarrassed Government barely able to conceal its fury. Moody's, the US credit rating agency, said it was lowering its rating on Japan's sovereign debt and foreign currency ceiling from the top notch AAA to AAL. Japan now joins Canada and Italy as the only G7 countries that do not command the top debt rating. The timing could not have been worse for the Japanese Government, coming just a day after it announced a huge stimulus package to try to kick-start its moribund economy and ahead of tomorrow's meeting with President Clinton. Eisuke Sakakibara — the Vice-Finance Minister for International Affairs who is dubbed "Mr Yen" in the markets — said: "I personally feel that Moody's may lose credibility with the market by making such a decision." Other Japanese officials claimed it was "impertinent" of an agency from the world's largest debtor nation to rule on Japan, which remains the world's largest creditor. "What do they think will happen if Japan sells its holdings of US Treasury securities?" one unnamed official told the Japanese media. Moody's said it took the decision because of the weakness of Japan's financial sector and its growing public sector debt problem. The agency directly criticised the Government's emergency spending measures, claiming that "such fiscal stimulus packages have not led to sustained economic growth but are increasing domestic debt substantially". The ratings downgrade will make borrowing for all Japanese governmental and commercial organisations more expensive.

Moody's downgrades Japan credit status

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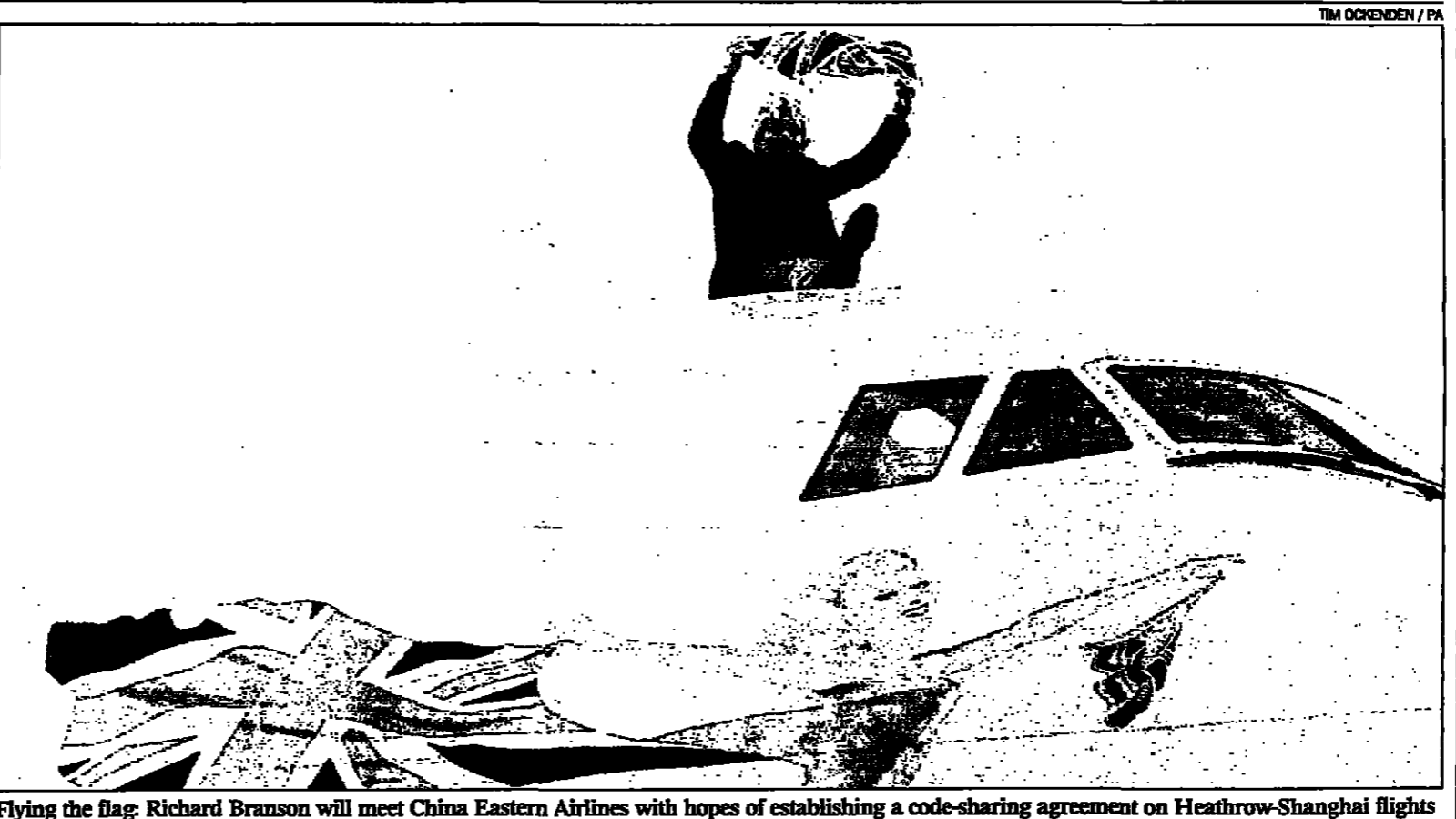
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BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, US-RATE, LONDON MONEY, and various market indices.

Advertisers back ITV on News at Ten

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR THIRTY of the UK's largest advertisers, which together spend more than £800 million a year on television, have put their weight behind the plan by the ITV companies to move News at Ten. The advertisers, including the biggest names in the business such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Mars, Kraft Jacobs Suchard, Renault, and Safeway, have written to the Independent Television Commission in support of ITV. The ITV companies have asked for the right to move the main ITV evening news, and the ITC will take the decision tomorrow. "The advertisers have written to the ITC expressing their 'strong support' for the ITV request to be able to move the main peaktime news. They argue that the ITV companies must have greater freedom over their schedule as the competition for audiences becomes more intense. The main reason for moving News at Ten and replacing it with news programmes at 6.30pm and 11pm is to end the present situation that means longer dramas or films broadcast after the 9pm threshold for more adult programmes are cut in half by the news. The ITV companies have argued puts them at a disadvantage when competing for viewers against new entrants to the TV market such as Channel 5 or BSkyB. Many of the advertisers are angry at the number of politicians who have intervened in the debate on the side of keeping News at Ten where it is. John Hooper, director of ISBA, the advertisers' trade association, said last night: "The last thing most people want is for the news to be where it is interrupting their evening's entertainment." Mr Hooper believes that across all channels there is plenty of news available and that ITV must have the freedom to take the steps necessary to increase its audiences. Advertisers have been complaining of a rise of nearly 50 per cent in the cost of advertising airtime over the past five years. "We [advertisers] fund the commercial television system yet no one listens to our point of view," Mr Hooper added. The likelihood is that the ITC will decide, despite the political pressure it has faced, to allow News at Ten to move with conditions attached — such as news headlines at 10pm, the reporting of important breaking news stories and a heavy-weight bulletin at 11pm.



Flying the flag: Richard Branson will meet China Eastern Airlines with hopes of establishing a code-sharing agreement on Heathrow-Shanghai flights

Virgin sets sights on Shanghai

By ADAM JONES RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic believes it has the upper hand over its arch-rival, British Airways, in the battle to be the first British carrier to fly directly from Heathrow to Shanghai. Only one of the airlines can win regulatory approval for the route. Mr Branson will meet Li Zhongming, the president of China Eastern Airlines, in China today to try and seal a crucial alliance for Virgin. The two airlines recently came to a provisional agreement to co-operate on the Shanghai route as long as they can both secure regulatory approval from their respective authorities in the UK and China. Today's meeting could lead to this being formalised as a straightforward code-sharing agreement, with each airline operating the service on different days. BA already runs a service between London and Beijing, a route Virgin also wants to fly. The two airlines will present their cases for the Shanghai licence at a public hearing organised by the Civil Aviation Authority on December 10. A decision is expected a few weeks after the hearing. Virgin suffered a regulatory knockback in similar circumstances when it wanted to fly to Moscow with a Russian carrier as its partner. A Virgin spokesman said it would be a "watershed" if it won approval for the Shanghai service. Mr Branson said yesterday that Virgin hoped to be flying the Shanghai route by early summer 1999. He said there were "superb" opportunities in the Far East. Virgin is currently building a chain of cinemas in Japan. He said: "The cost of property there is at its lowest level for 20 years." Mr Branson was also bullish about current trading at Virgin Atlantic. He said that the UK economy still felt "buoyant". Branson's flit, page 77

Flying pickets in UK for Mickey Mouse row

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT FLYING pickets returned to the streets yesterday. No, not the industrial warriors of bygone years who packed into a transit van to trail from one grim dispute to another. Perish the thought in these times of workplace partnership. Yesterday's flying pickets took their mission quite literally, boarding a transatlantic flight to London to mount their demonstration. Their target: Mickey Mouse. Or more correctly, ABC News, the Walt Disney subsidiary. Mickey is getting a bit of a hammering from the unions in the US over ABC's use of casual labour and the lack of information about a medical plan. ABC's answer to the conflict — which has left it with a crippling lack of technical staff — has been to switch the broadcast of many news programmes to London. Orlando Burgos, of the Communication Workers Union of America, said: "To use another country as a basis for scab operations is appalling." A spokeswoman for ABC said the company would continue to use London for as long as necessary. The flying pickets were offered solidarity yesterday by the UK's Communication Workers Union. But Mickey Mouse could soon be removed from his uncomfortable role as union hate figure. Both sides in the US are set to return to the negotiating table after intervention from the Government. The dispute has won support from stars, including Whoopi Goldberg, the actress, and Tony Bennett, the singer. ALAN WELLS



ABC News workers flew into London for a demonstration

Shareholders 'should pay for mis-selling'

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT SHAREHOLDERS of insurance companies involved in pensions mis-selling should bear a substantial share of compensation costs, according to the all-party Treasury Select Committee. This would encourage better management in future, the MPs said in their report on mis-selling, published yesterday. The bill to clear up the mis-selling of pensions in the 1980s and 1990s could eventually be as high as £11 billion. The committee also called for clarification on how and to whom surplus assets in long-term life funds, known as "orphans", should be distributed. Several insurance companies that want to release these surpluses are currently negotiating with the Department of Trade and Industry. Giles Radice, chairman of the committee, said he was not calling for the "whole burden" to be borne by shareholders. He did, however, welcome the decision to allow policyholders to complain to the proposed Financial Services Ombudsman about the size of bonuses attached to their policies. The committee also believes that the Treasury needs to examine whether the appointed actuary of an insurance company should have greater powers. The committee recommended that the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City super-watchdog, develop guidelines to reduce excessive dependence on commission-based sales. It said that there should be a mechanism in place to check that salesmen have complied with the rules of selling before any commission is paid. The current regulation of insurance, it said, was "ill-designed, little-known and rarely exercised". Meanwhile, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which will be integrated into the FSA, has taken disciplinary action against 20 firms and issued fines totalling £76,000. Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, gave warning that firms could face hefty fines if they did not clear up "priority" cases of pensions mis-selling by the end of this year. Radice welcomed decision

Cartier advertisement featuring a Diabolo de Cartier Pen and contact information for Cartier stores.

Hoechst chemicals duo to be spun off

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

HOECHST, the German group recently linked in merger talks with French rival Rhône-Poulenc, is spinning off its industrial chemicals businesses, Celanese and Ticona.

Deteriorating markets have forced Hoechst to scrap plans to sell Celanese for cash in a public offering. Instead, it will be packaged and spun off with a listing in Frankfurt and New York. Hoechst yesterday announced a collapse in pre-tax profit for the third quarter because of weak Asian markets, financial crisis in Russia and deteriorating conditions in the US.

Pre-tax profit fell 77 per cent to DM191 million (£68.2 million) in the three months to September and Jürgen Dormann, chief executive, said the pressure to consolidate in all sectors of industry would increase.

He said an initial public offering of Celanese and Ticona would have been too slow, risking a loss of shareholder value, and a trade sale would not have yielded a good price.

Losing focus, page 27

Inflation hits Bank's target for third month

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INFLATION hit the Bank of England's target level for the third consecutive month in October but left the City unconvincing that the MPC will reduce interest rates again before the end of the year.

Separate data also published yesterday showed the Treasury achieving a larger than expected monthly Budget surplus, placing the Chancellor on course to beat his revised half-year forecasts.

The October annual rate of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, remained static at 2.5 per cent. Headline inflation performed slightly better, slipping back from 3.2 per cent to

3.1 per cent — the lowest level seen in nearly 18 months.

Economists expressed some disappointment that underlying inflation had not fallen.

The Bank's Quarterly Inflation Report, published earlier this month, forecast a small increase in inflation during the next few months and economists said this could delay further rate reductions.

However, with retailers experiencing pricing pressure and wage demands easing, economists predicted that inflation was likely to decline in the next few months.

Jonathan Lynnes, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Inflation should move decisively below

its 2.5 per cent target over the next six months, helping the Monetary Policy Committee to bring rates down further."

The largest downward impact on inflation came from a sharp decline in motorist costs and falls in clothing and footwear and household goods prices. However, this was partially offset by a one-off increase due to the introduction of university tuition fees.

Overall core goods inflation slipped to 1.1 per cent, its lowest rate since the series began in 1987. But services inflation continued to disappoint, edging down only slightly from 3.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

The Public Sector Net Cash Requirement recorded a surplus of £7.9 billion in October compared with £5.7 billion last year. The better than expected figures were attributed to the continued strength of income tax and VAT receipts.

In the first seven months of the year the Treasury enjoyed a £5.3 surplus compared with a deficit of £3.1 billion at the same point last year. Economists predicted that the Chancellor was on course to beat his revised forecast for a full year surplus of £4.3 billion.

A larger than anticipated surplus this financial year will help the Government to meet its borrowing rules as the economy begins to slow.

Phillips & Drew loses council portfolio

By PAUL DURMAN

PHILLIPS & DREW, the pension fund manager known for its bearish stance, has lost the contract to manage a £300 million portfolio for Buckinghamshire County Council.

After the loss of mandates from the Universities Superannuation Scheme and from Pearson, this is the third large client P&D has lost in recent months. Ironically, after a long period underperforming its rivals, P&D's one-year investment record is better than it has been for three years.

Buckinghamshire County Council has replaced P&D with CU Morley, part of Commercial Union. Sean Nolan, the council's head of finance, said P&D had a good record but "we felt it was time for a change".

The news came on a day when UBS, the Swiss bank that owns P&D, was reporting a 30 per cent collapse in pre-tax profits to SwFr3.5 billion for the first nine months of 1998. The bank was badly hit by the SwFr790 million (£340 million) loss it suffered on its involvement with Long Term Capital Management.

Warburg Dillon Read, the investment banking arm, suffered a pre-tax loss of SwFr1.23 billion. UBS blamed "the unprecedented volatility on the equity markets and the sudden and dramatic widening of spreads on the bond markets".

Sharp cuts in bonus payments meant UBS's personnel expenses fell by 17 per cent.

UBS has also made provisions to make payments to the relatives of Jewish clients who were killed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Commentary, page 25

Scitex starts 'papers on demand'

By CHRIS AVRES

TRAVELLING executives will soon be able to pick up newspapers from home wherever they are in the world, thanks to a high-tech private US company called PressPoint.

The company, created out of the research and development division of Scitex, the Israeli printing group, intends to install miniature printing presses in hotels, airports, business centres and leisure complexes around the world.

The high-tech presses can then print newspapers from around the world to order, via direct electronic links to their editorial systems. PressPoint has already teamed up with The Times, Bloomberg News, and The Miami Herald, as well as Austria's Der Standard, Spain's El Mundo and Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza.

The service is funded by advertising, which is printed in colour on the inside pages of the newspapers. Lance Primus, chairman of PressPoint, yesterday said: "We have worked hard to establish PressPoint as a new leader in the news and information world and to align ourselves with such high-calibre organisations as Bloomberg and The Times."



PAUL ROGERS

Merchant Retail Group, the specialist perfume retailer and department stores group, whose chairman is Philip Newton, above, reported a profit of £355,000 for the six months to September 26, compared with a loss of £167,000

last time. The company said it is approaching the Christmas selling season with confidence. Turnover was 15 per cent up at £35.3 million, with earnings per share at 0.27p, up from a loss of 0.23p. The interim dividend is 0.15p (0.10p).

Curwen leaves AWA's US division

RICHARD CURWEN, the chief executive of the US arm of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the papermaker, has resigned from the company after more than 20 years to pursue "other interests". (Matthew Barbour writes)

Mr Curwen, 49, has been

chief executive of Appleton, AWA's troubled US operation, for two years, having previously been chief operating officer.

Ken Minton, chairman, said: "Richard has left voluntarily and on good terms. He has just decided that he is at the right stage to make the

move and try something different. He is a very able man and we wish him all the best."

Mr Minton said that Mr Curwen's departure was in no way connected to the recent disappointing results from Appleton.

For the six months to June

30 operating profits in AWA's North American manufacturing fell 19 per cent to £37.7 million on sales of £390.2 million (£405.2 million).

Mr Curwen is to be replaced by Douglas Butch, formerly vice-president of AWA's carbonless paper division.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia S	2.14	2.56
Austria Sch	20.71	19.05
Belgium Fr	60.95	56.00
Canada Cdn	2.719	2.524
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8722	0.8007
Dormark M	11.22	10.34
ESPt	5.92	5.31
Finland Mk	9.06	8.31
France Fr	9.58	9.08
Germany Dr	2.683	2.721
Greece Dr	498	459
Hong Kong S	13.81	12.51
India R	29	109
Indonesia	16370	11370
Ireland P	1.1805	1.0916
Israel Sh	7.99	6.53
Italy Lit	2947	2720
Japan Yen	217.36	199.83
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlands Gld	3.349	3.094
New Zealand S	3.28	3.04
Norway Kr	13.08	12.14
Portugal Esc	209.71	277.68
S Africa Rd	10.20	9.24
Spain Ptas	249.50	230.71
Sweden Kr	14.28	13.18
Switzerland Fr	2.428	2.240
Turkey Lira	510723	476177
USA \$	1.783	1.640

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Standard Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



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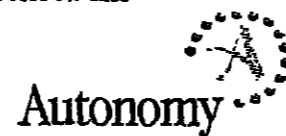
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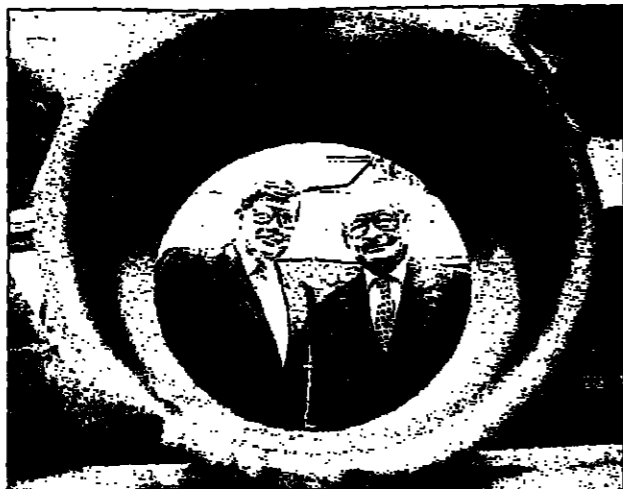
STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Investors in the mood for a financial merger

TALK of a large corporate deal emerging in the financial sector is not new. But it does make commercial sense and is most likely to materialise where the City least expects it.



Tony Isaac, left, finance director, and Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive of BOC, which ended 18p higher at 866p

Yesterday the speculators found it convenient to run with reports that AXA-UAP wanted to bid for Guardian Royal Exchange, which responded with a rise of 18p to 293p as more than 5 million shares changed hands.

It is more likely that the first corporate move will be in the banking sector. There are simply too many banks and building societies on the high street and brokers say something will have to give.

Barclays, down 15p to £12.25, Halifax 15p firmer at 833p, Abbey National, 3p dearer at £12.25 and NatWest, 29p higher at 979p, have all pondered the prospect of mergers at some stage with one rival, or another.

Others in the frame include Alliance & Leicester, 2p lighter at 89p, and Woolwich, 3p dearer at 370p, while Norwich Union, 2p up at 426p, and Prudential Corporation, 11p harder at 613p, have both been linked with the banking sector in the past.

Shares price generally ran out of steam after notching up early gains and extending their recent strong run. Hopes that the Federal Reserve will cut US interest rates provided the stimulus for the early gains, but opening falls for the Dow Jones industrial average left prices in London nursing small losses on the day.

The FTSE 100 index, up 52 points, at one stage, closed 7.8 down at 5,502.7. Trading conditions were again thin with total turnover reaching just 750 million shares.

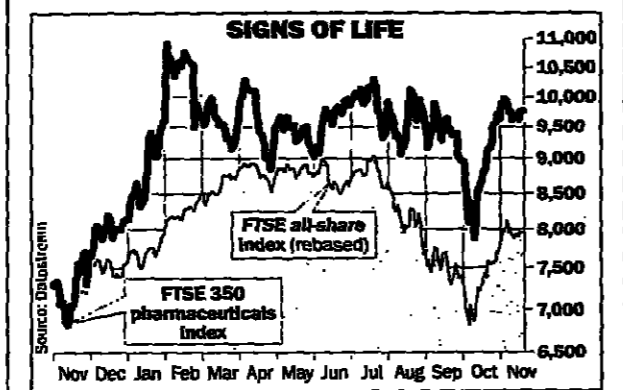
Early interest focused on another string of gloomy trading results, including a profits setback for BOC. But the final outcome was no worse than feared and the price ended the session 18p higher at 866p.

273p, having briefly touched 280p, after talking to brokers and fund managers. The best the company could offer, was that trading was still in line with expectations.

Rentokil Initial ran into profit taking after Monday's sharp rise. Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, was meeting fund managers at a lunch arranged by HSBC Securities.

the broker. They were hoping to establish if the industrial services group would be able to extend its 20 per cent earnings growth record despite the economic slowdown.

Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, has picked its 28 best "core buys" across Europe. British companies feature prominently. They include British Aerospace, 3p



FUND managers have been breathing fresh life back in to the biotech stocks after a period of uncertainty earlier this year. At last, there appears to be positive news emanating from some of the companies.

They were led higher yesterday by Skypharma, up 9p to 82p, which has linked with Novartis Pharma to develop its dry-cough asthma inhalers in order to gain US approval.

Earlier this month, Chiroscience, unchanged at 321p, applied for Swedish approval for its local anaesthetic, while Shield Diagnostics' Activated Factor 12, used for detecting heart disease, looks like being a winner in the US.

Robert Fleming Securities expects further developments from biotech companies before the year end and has been pushing the sector. Its "buy" list includes British Biotech, Celltech, down 17p to 402p, Oxford GlycoSciences, steady at 236p and Vanguard Medica, down 1p to 206p.

firm at 465p, CGU, down 18p at 907p, Diageo, 5p cheaper at 660p, Diageo, 42p dearer at 670p, Granada, 7p better at 845p, National Power, up 9p to 550p, Ocean Group, 17p stronger at 680p, and takeover favourite Zeneca, 15p harder at £23.10.

Philip Swinstead, the Parity chairman, has been taking advantage of the weakness in the shares, down 11p at 405p, to top up his holding. He has snapped up a further 250,000 shares at 415p taking his entire holding to 1.3 million, or 3.19 per cent. The Parity share price has collapsed from a peak of 862p this year.

There was no joy for the food manufacturers in the wake of the sales warning from Northern Foods, down 12p to 155p. It followed hard on the heels of a downturn trading statement this week from Unigate, 10p off at 491p. There were also losses for Cadbury Schweppes, 1p to 88p, Devro, 5p to 276p, Geest, 16p to 418p, Hazlewood Foods, 9p to 125p, Hillsdown, 5p to 88p, and United Biscuits, 15p to 237p.

VHRE Holdings saw its share price virtually halved with a fall of 32p, or 45 per cent, to 39p after it gave warning that interim profits for the year will fall below last year's £1.4 million. The outcome for the full year will also be "materially" down on 1997.

Another big faller was Store-data Systems 1p lower at 21p after announcing it will not be proceeding with its acquisition of Network Services.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices got off to a flying start, but traded in narrow limits for the rest of the session with investors proving reluctant to open fresh positions. They were anxiously waiting to see which way the US Federal Reserve Open Market Committee would move on interest rates.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished 34p dearer at £15.49 in low volume that saw just 21,000 contracts completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 7p to £145.24, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 14p better at £106.02.

NEW YORK: Shares drifted as investors waited for interest rate news from the Federal Reserve. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 45.75 points lower at 9,665.68.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Nikkei, Hang Kong, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Argenta Water, Collective Assets Trust, First Active, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Amec/Amec (44), Broomfield Publishing (145), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in share prices including Alliance Res, Radius, Spharma, etc.

TEMPUS You can ring my bell

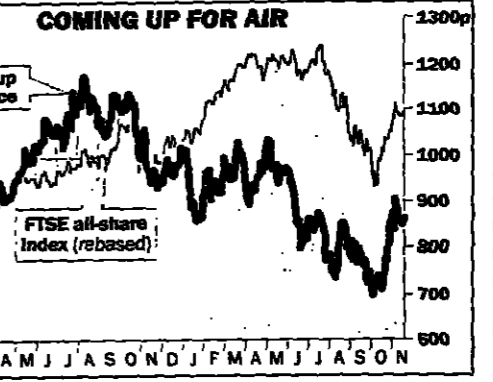
MOBILE telephony is a luscious business to be in. How many industries can reasonably hope to sign up 1.5 million new customers in a Christmas quarter? Digital television would die for such a following.

Yesterday's results from Vodafone confirm that the stock is a must have, despite the fact that the shares dipped by 13p to 838p. It is a sound, well-run company in a vibrant sector. Yes, it is being given more of a run for its money by a reawakened Celtel, but both these seem to be taking a disproportionate share of the new business compared with rivals Orange and One2One.

IT HAS been a busy year for BOC. With the sale of its large healthcare business, an efficiency drive that will cost £300 million and 5,300 jobs, the collapse of investment in computer chip factories, and gyrating currencies, investors can add up the figures in half a dozen ways and come up with entirely different results.

Yesterday's results from Vodafone confirm that the stock is a must have, despite the fact that the shares dipped by 13p to 838p. It is a sound, well-run company in a vibrant sector. Yes, it is being given more of a run for its money by a reawakened Celtel, but both these seem to be taking a disproportionate share of the new business compared with rivals Orange and One2One.

Underneath it all, the main gases businesses remains in robust health. At constant currencies, even turnover was up 5 per cent and operating profits were 11 per cent ahead at £418.5 million. While BOC cannot escape the effects of a slowing world economy, the need for oxygen, nitrogen and compressed air in a wide variety of industries provides a very solid order book.



Northern Foods

IT USED to be that a company needed only to mention connections with Marks & Spencer to have investors queuing up to buy the shares.

quickly redresses that balance

Northern's record on investment also represents a shining example. But investment in efficiency-gaining production lines, which once may have put Northern in a position to improve its prospects, is now required to stave off declines. Even with the tireless energies Northern expends making itself efficient, profit margins are likely to erode.

M&S remains a powerful ally for Northern and it would be foolish to get overworried about what may only be a short-term hiccup. Criticism of Northern also seems curiously because it is undoubtedly well run. Can Northern really be blamed for the fact that the food manufacturing sector is so desperately, endemically, challenging?

With growth stymied for the foreseeable future Northern shares lean heavily on the 5.4 per cent yield. Hold if you want income.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates including Argentina peso, Australian dollar, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including AAPL, AMZN, etc.

PRECIOUS METALS (BANK & CO)

Table of precious metals prices including Gold, Silver, etc.

SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of spot and forward rates for various currencies.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, etc.

FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of financial futures prices including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options prices including various insurance policies.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies and terms.

SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of spot and forward rates for various currencies.

German group

Storm risk

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Doomsday danger not yet averted

Few observers of the international economy are now talking about Armageddon, and a slightly calmer perspective on the economic crisis is justified as long as central bankers continue to do their job and go on cutting interest rates. It is complacent to assume that 50 or 75 basis points off significant interest rates will be enough for the world economy to turn the corner.

In yesterday's economic outlook, the OECD noted "an abatement of tensions" but gave warning that substantial risks remain and, as a timely service to optimists (the most invertebrate of whom have been pumping money into Japanese equities) in recent weeks, offered a glimpse of doomsday.

OECD oil imports down by 30 per cent and non-oil commodities by 12 per cent.

Economic decline in Japan continues while bank restructuring either stalls or proceeds but is "disorderly". The yen falls (to ¥145 to the dollar) and demand and confidence weakens. Global equity markets suffer another sharp correction (30 per cent from mid-November levels, and 40 per cent to 50 per cent from mid-July peaks) and this, in turn, weakens internal demand and confidence in large industrialised economies. The dollar falls by 10 per cent against the euro and 5 per cent against sterling.

The OECD then analyses the impact of cautious and aggressive monetary easings. Caution produces essentially no growth at all in OECD countries next year, with recession in America, continuing contraction in Japan and growth of

less than 1 per cent in Europe. Aggressive easing helps to mitigate these effects, but not a great deal.

Its message is clear. Interest rates have to go on falling, partly — and crucially — to keep the patina of confidence constructed by central bankers and finance ministers since the October meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington. That confidence has been based less on grand statements about reforming the world financial architecture than on the perception that central banks will continue aggressively to cut rates.

As soon as Alan Greenspan noted recently that credit spreads had narrowed somewhat and that the mood in markets was calmer, expectations of further rate cuts started to fade. That pushed the dollar higher against the yen and rallying Asian markets fell off their perch. As Stephen Lewis, of Monu-



ment Derivatives, noted: "If the Federal Open Markets Committee needed a reminder that a return to financial market stability is conditional on further credit ease, it has received it." Confidence is fragile.

or less hit its inflation target over the next two years without a further monetary easing. The Chancellor was predicting much the same, but on the basis that interest rates will fall further. Pre-Budget Report forecasts are based on market assumptions of the future path of interest rates and they were, at that stage at least, markedly down.

The dominant view in the City appears to side with the Chancellor. Most economists believe that the economy will show more signs of sharp decline and that the Bank will cut interest rates again to head off an undershoot of its inflation target (and deliver to Gordon Brown his softish landing).

The truth is that, with inflation low and falling, and the possibility of serious deflation in the works, central bankers ought to be erring on the side of bigger monetary easings, simply because they can. In

America, this thinking appears to be well entrenched. Alice Rivlin, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, recently said that "inflation is not a problem". Nor, it seems, is the fact that Wall Street is almost back to 5 per cent below its previous highs. Far from talking about irrational exuberance, Ms Rivlin responded to stock market strength with "we can't solve all the problems at one go".

Britain's central bankers, with a dreadful past inflation record to live down, do not yet seem convinced that deflation, not inflation, is the bogeyman now. For example, the Bank is projecting that inflation will blow above target in the spring on the assumption that the minimum wage is going to push up labour costs. Yet, if the economy is slowing to near recessionary levels, it seems highly unlikely that the minimum wage will be enough

to boost earnings overall. Central bankers also have to take care not to misread the signals of, frankly, irrational financial market players. Remember the fact that the recent rally in Asian stock markets was set off by a rally in the yen, itself largely triggered by the distressed closing out of huge short yen positions by hedge funds. Rallying Asian stocks were seen as a sign of global recovery. US rate cut expectations eased, the dollar rose, the yen fell.

Tim Bond, of Barclays Capital, summed up this episode thus: "The improvement in global sentiment has been wholly confined to the financial markets and appears to be a classic instance of reflexive reasoning, investors seeking to describe fundamental causes to technical market movements and thus extrapolating an investment policy that is based upon a wholly incorrect reading of the fundamentals." The fundamentals remain dire in the developing world and, even for central bankers, it is real economies, not the twilight zone of the markets, that should guide them.

Germany's demerging chemicals groups begin to lose their focus

Carl Mortished reports on how the struggle for growth is being approached by two big rivals

Jürgen Dormann, chief executive of Hoechst, made good use of the "C" word yesterday, announcing the demerger of the industrial chemicals business that would leave the German company a drugs and agrochemicals group.

It was a good gambit: "conglomerate structure" raises the hackles of most analysts. Mr Dormann has been, "dismantling the multilayered, complex Hoechst conglomerate" for four years. And yesterday it looked like the strategy was on its last lap. The new Hoechst will concentrate on life sciences, "pursuing a market and value-oriented approach".

He followed up with more words designed to please: "focus", "value" and the Holy Grail of the new managers of today's drug and agribusiness firms — "life sciences".

This time the speech fell on deaf ears and Hoechst shares fell to a record low. It was not all Mr Dormann's fault; his audience had heard the strategy too many times before. But analysts were more interested to hear news of the rumoured merger with Rhône-Poulenc. Yesterday, Mr Dormann would not or could not oblige.

Hoechst's strategy of refining its business down to life sciences was greeted with a fanfare when it was launched — it was a bombshell to the German chemicals industry. The Anglo-American obsession with focus has been slow to take root in the industrial landscape of the Rhine.



Jürgen Strube, left, chairman of BASF, which has diversified, in contrast to the strategy of Jürgen Dormann at Hoechst

Bayer insists that its drugs business will remain within the fold while seeking partnerships. Meanwhile, BASF is diversifying further upstream and to add insult to injury, is proving remarkably resilient to recession while Hoechst's profits have been battered.

Hoechst's third-quarter figures showed both the impact of collapsing chemical prices and a weak performance in the new areas of focus: pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. Celanese, the industrial business set for demerger saw its operating profit halved while Hoechst Marion Roussel, the drugs business, has suffered from shrinking Japanese markets and the collapse in Russia. HMR's result was affected by restructuring, but its sales and those of Agrevo, the agro-chemical joint venture with Schering, declined.

BASF too, was hurt by third-quarter price pressures but is still forecasting higher profits for the year. The company is making money from its core chemical, plastics and coatings businesses as well as its health and nutrition ventures.

Why is BASF being spared much of the pain? If you listen to its management, the answer is *verbund*. Rather than adopt US-business school jargon, BASF bosses have invented their own philosophy, which runs counter to popular business wisdom. Roughly translated, *verbund* means integration and describes the huge efficiency gains BASF has derived at Ludwigshafen, a massive chemical plant on the Rhine, by vertically integrating the production process. According to Peter Mackay at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, *verbund* works. "They pump in natural gas, oil and salt at one end, make everything and the by-products are recycled. There is very little actual waste."

BASF claims that *verbund* at Ludwigshafen saves the company DM1 billion (£360 million) and the company is building on the principle in Texas and in Malaysia. So serious is BASF about integration that it has gone right back to the well-head in the North Sea as far upstream as drugs and vitamins. BASF bought the Boots pharmaceuticals business. In Germany, BASF owns Wintershall, an oil and gas company,

which, in partnership with Russia's Gazprom, has gained control of 12 per cent of the German gas market. Were BASF a British or US chemical giant, Wintershall would have been spun off. Indeed, Dupont has done the honours for Conoco while chemical rivals elsewhere have been shuffling their business portfolios. Specialty chemicals operations were spun off in the hope that the fashion for focus would deliver gains for shareholders: Rhône-Poulenc shed Rhodia while the merger of Sandox and Ciba-Geigy gave birth to Ciba Specialty Chemicals. Last week, Ciba merged with its Swiss sister company Clariant, which had previously been demerged from Sandox. In Britain, ICI has attempted to refashion itself as a specialty chemicals company, shedding its industrial heritage in an attempt to escape the punishing cycle of commodities.

However, rampant corporate activity has not delivered extraordinary gains for investors, as Tony Cox of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson points out. "The surprise is the speed at which specialty chemicals

nied Hoechst the cash it hoped to gain from selling Celanese; the industrial chemicals arm is to be floated off. And the mooted merger with Rhône-Poulenc has not fascinated the analysts. Referring to the weak drugs pipeline of both companies one said: "It is a strategy born of weakness."

Ultimately, one cannot escape the conclusion that BASF is that rare breed, a successful conglomerate. Its strength is its strong chemistry which generates a prodigious return on capital at Ludwigshafen. The mountain of cash generated from plastics and bulk chemicals is then successfully reinvested.

But BASF may now be under threat from within. Germany's new Government is showing itself to be less friendly to the post-war industrial strategy based on industrial conglomerates. It wants less investment in big, polluting machinery and more in people and high technology. Pressure from the Green Party suggests that an energy tax is on the way, which would spoil the *verbund* effect at Ludwigshafen.

If the policy develops further, BASF may be forced to go abroad. It is already building plant in Malaysia and China. Indeed, the BASF model of vertical integration is being followed closely in India where Reliance Industries, a successful polyester manufacturer has expanded into petrochemicals and further upstream into oil exploration securing supplies of natural gas. Recently, it has acquired a telecoms licence. The "C" word is definitely still kosher in the developing world.

Branson ready for tilt at punctuality

Richard Branson offered a novel incentive to dozens of train designers in Birmingham yesterday.

The Virgin boss — who was opening a new design studio at Alstom, the UK-French engineer — handed out silver envelopes containing one half of a transatlantic air ticket.

The designers get the other half if Alstom manages to deliver new tilting trains to Virgin's rail operation on time.

This is the carrot. The stick is not far away. On the wall of the new studio is a banner that details the cost of failure.

Two months late in delivery? That will cost Alstom about £10 million. A 10 per cent overrun on the cost of materials? That will cost about £15 million, and so on.

The banner will undoubtedly focus the minds of the Alstom designers as they prepare a prototype train for tests in the summer of 2000.

For their customer, however, the stakes are much higher. Mr Branson's foray into rail services has been a public relations disaster recently. The poor punctuality of the Virgin services along the West Coast of England and Scotland has infuriated politicians and alienated many customers.

Virgin argues that it is doing its best with the poor infrastructure it inherited — but the 54 tilting trains earmarked for the West Coast are its best chance of winning over critics.

Any delay will leave Virgin open to another roasting. This does not leave Alstom and its Italian partner, Fiat Ferroviaria, much room for error. The music that accompanied the opening of the design studio yesterday — the theme from *Mission: Impossible* — did not dispel this feeling but the engineers are confident.

They say they have scoured the globe, streamlining the design and manufacturing process. The designers are divided into teams with complete responsibility for one part of the train. There are no office partitions; information must flow freely. The progress of the various teams can be modelled in 3-D by computer.

To ram home the need for punctuality, the number of days left before the first scheduled delivery is displayed on a wall. Yesterday it read 866.

Another board said there were 273 days before assembly of the test train starts. This deadline is crucial to solving teething problems. Those who remember BR's attempt at tilt technology, the disastrous Advanced Passenger Train, will appreciate this.

Richard Branson appears relaxed. "Obviously, one would like to see everything delivered on time. We have to accept there is always a possibility of some slippage. At this stage we are hopeful and confident."

He hopes the trains will enable Virgin Trains to take business from short-haul airlines, especially on the London to Manchester route. But if they are late or faulty, his rivals will have a field day. The clock is ticking.

ADAM JONES

Storm rising

FEELINGS obviously run high on emerging stock markets, because the latest Reuters survey of fund managers' attitudes there was subject to some ill-mannered heckling when it was launched at the City's Drapers' Hall yesterday. Stephen Parker, of Tempest Consultants, which drew up the report, was just essaying a mild defence, pointing out that not all stocks quoted on such markets had fallen, when an unidentified member of the audience started to query his research.

The heckler's anger is understandable if, as one must suppose, he is an emerging market analyst, because the Reuters data show that he has a three in four chance of being surplus to requirements.

The survey quizzed fund managers around the world on their opinions of analysts. A total of 2,696 of these, or 76 per cent, identified by Tempest received no votes at all, and no indication that the managers even knew they existed.

Instead, the work is going to the same big names — you know which ones. Both fund managers and corporations had Merrill Lynch in top slot.



"It's from Camelot. They want us to print fewer scratch cards and more P45s"

A KIND letter from NatWest expressing concern about the health of The Times football team. Year 2000. Are you ready? worries Peter Ibbotson, head of small business services. A quarter of such companies think the millennium bug is "primarily an IT/computing issue", but it is not.

As it happens our team hasn't been doing too well, and some of the players' movements are a bit robotic. I ring NatWest, but it is merely a round-robin fired off to all 400,000 of its business customers. I check with the team captain anyway. "The way we're going, the mil-



lennium bug will soon be playing for us," he says.

Calling off

The first week of December will not be an easy time for Chris Gent, chief executive of Vodafone. December 4 will be bad enough, when the MMC reports on charges in the mobile phone market. But Gent has one more financial hurdle to cross the previous day. That is when he will receive details of the settlement following his divorce. He told a City audience yesterday.

Box of tricks

MIKE GRABNER, chief executive of Energis, was asked whether he had yet obtained

an ONdigital box for his television. After all, anyone in the telecoms business must already have the cornucopia of channels the industry has persuaded itself we all want. No, not yet, he said — apparently there is a shortage of the things, and he has yet to track one down.

Grabner was being too modest. He need only pick up the phone to his younger brother Stephen, who is chief executive of ONdigital.

AFTER my note about Bernie Ecclestone and the use of the obscure word "novated" in his prospectus, my attention is drawn to a full-page ad in the Financial Times taken out by CSFB hailing the Chrysler-Daimler Benz merger.

The shares "are the first to trade worldwide with complete fungibility", it announces. I wonder whether to call Rentokil, but instead check further. From the Latin word *fungor*, meaning to occupy oneself, it means interchangeable. Not an uncommon word on the bond markets, my informant says. "But you have to be a pretty sad train-spotter to put a word like fungibility in a £30,000 advertisement."

New cuisine

THE cult of the celebrity chef reached new heights at Guildhall for the Lord Mayor's Ban-

quet Speech. Rather than the usual rubber chicken, the food, in a notable first, was by Anton Mosimann.

Lord Levene of Portoken, Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson and all the rest tucked into the usual minimalist stuff, on plates so grand that they probably had to count them all at the end to make sure none of the assembled worthies made off with one.

And then, incredibly, Mosimann himself did a tour of the banquet hall, looking as if he was paying court to his own restaurant. He was done up in full chef's regalia, white hat, the works, and left to a round of applause. All very new Labour.

MARTIN WALLER



Anton Mosimann did a tour of the tables at Guildhall

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Fall in consumer confidence hits Northern Foods

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN FOODS, the supplier of prepared foods to Marks & Spencer and other supermarket grocers, sent a shiver through the food producing sector yesterday by warning of weakening consumer confidence.

The group also said that the crucial Christmas trading was late to start.

Lord Haskins of Skidby, the long-time Labour supporter who chairs the group, said that the sales trend had softened in the second quarter compared to the first, and that the drift continued in October and November.

Marks & Spencer takes about one third of the foods produced by Northern. Lord Haskins refused to comment on any possible effects on Northern of the current board power play at M&S.

However, he said that the retailer's plans to increase the

amount of its space it dedicates to food ought to bolster Northern's prospects.

Shares in Northern fell nearly 8 per cent yesterday from 167½p to 155p but others in the sector also felt the chill. Hillsdown fell 5½p to 85p; United Biscuits slipped 13p to 237p and Hazlewood Foods lost 9p, or nearly 7 per cent, to close at 125½p.

The food producers' sector index closed down 2 per cent on a day the FTSE All Share average gained ground.

The bleak trading environment undermined profits at Northern Foods in the six months to September 30. The company made pre-tax profits of £40.2 million against £42 million in the comparable period last year.

However, the direct cause of the profits fall was higher interest charges. Money borrowed to fund acquisition ex-

pansion and the purchase of capital equipment sent debt levels to £206 million from £150 million. The interest bill climbed to £8.1 million from £2.5 million.

The harsher outlook on the second half of the year also prompted analysts to cut their forecasts for full-year profits. Consensus opinion had been that Northern would make about £101 million in the year to March 31. After yesterday's news, forecasts are that Northern will make only about £95 million.

Last year profits, restated to take account of the demerger of Express Dairies, the milk business, were £83 million.

Earnings per share in the half year were 5.19p against 5.55p. The half-time dividend is lifted, however, 4 per cent to 2.6p.

Tempus, page 26



Jo Stewart, Northern Foods chief executive, left, with Sean Christie, finance director

C&W lifted by Optus debut in Australia

By CHRIS AYRES

CABLE & WIRELESS, the British cable and telecoms group, yesterday saw its stake in C&W Optus valued at A\$4.8 billion (£1.3 billion) after the Australian mobile phone group's trading debut on the stock market.

The company's shares finished their first day on the market at A\$2.65, a 45 per cent premium to their retail price when the company launched its flotation.

The flotation of C&W Optus, in which C&W owns a 52 per cent stake, was possible only because Dick Brown, chief executive of the British company, managed to persuade the Australian Government to change the law on foreign ownership of telecoms groups.

Yesterday's strong performance propelled C&W Optus firmly into the ranks of Australia's top 15 companies with a market capitalisation of A\$9.2 billion.

"It's come on at a pretty strong price, there's no doubt

about that," Tim Ryan, an analyst at Credit Suisse Asset Management, said.

The flotation gave a boost to C&W, which has invested about A\$3 billion in Optus since it was set up in January 1992. Some analysts estimated that the British company made a nominal profit of about A\$1.8 billion on the float. Shares in C&W rose on the London stock market by 3½p to 69½p.

C&W Optus's success also underlined the change in emphasis of the Australian stock market from the natural resources sector to finance and telecoms. The listing of C&W Optus comes a year to the day after the flotation of Australia's largest telecoms group — Telstra, which is still partly owned by the Australian Government, achieved a 37 per cent premium on its first day of trading, and has doubled its share price over the past year.

Barlow considers move to London

By SAIED SHAH

BARLOW, the South African industrial group, said that it would consider moving its primary listing to London, joining a growing tide of firms seeking to move from the Johannesburg exchange.

However, the company, which has a second listing in London, emphasised that no decision had been made yet and that there was no timetable for any move.

Tony Phillips, chief executive, said: "Given that 57 per cent of our profit comes from outside South Africa, we would be irresponsible to our shareholders if we are not looking at it... we have not made any application to the Government and the Reserve Bank as yet, but we will consider it."

He said there was enormous potential to expand the group's business overseas.

Mark Drewell, head of corporate communications, said a London listing "made sense" in terms of raising finance but he added that Barlow had no need for additional funds at the present time.

The 57 per cent non-South African contribution to Barlow's attributable profits, for the year to September 30, was up from 37 per cent the previous year.

Pre-tax profit for the period was 1.071 billion rand (about £107 million), down from R1.232 billion. Turnover was up 19 per cent at R20.538 billion. An increased number of shares in issue meant earnings per share declined by 3 per cent to 321.5 cents. A final dividend of 88 cents was declared, making a total dividend of 124 cents for the year, unchanged from last time.

FirstGroup accelerates 27% despite disruptions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FIRSTGROUP, the passenger transport operator, saw its profits jump 27 per cent in the first half, despite severe disruptions on its train services in the North West.

Moir Lockhead, chief executive, said that the "significant operational difficulties" on its First North Western services, which attracted the attention of Opra, the Rail Regulator, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, had kept passenger growth to about 4 per cent in the first half, against a forecast of 6 per cent. He said that by early September operating performance was restored.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to September 30 rose to £38.1 million (£30 million), reflecting the group's high level of acquisitions. Diluted earnings per share rose from 7.2p to 7.7p. The company is paying an interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p).

Mr Lockhead said that its first overseas operation, running buses in Hong Kong, had been launched successfully and that the company is looking for other overseas opportunities.



Lockhead: successful launch

Enterprise sales defy flat market

By DOMINIC WALSH

ENTERPRISE INNS, the fast-growing tenanted pub operator, yesterday defied the gloom pervading the beer sector with an 8 per cent jump in like-for-like sales in the year to September 30.

Its optimism was in stark contrast to Mansfield Brewery, where comparable sales in its tenanted estate were down 1.3 per cent and were 7.3 per cent lower in its managed pubs arm. Mansfield's profits also took a £1.2 million hit from the economic crisis in Russia, the biggest export market for its beer.

Enterprise, which has doubled in size to more than 1,800 pubs over the past two years, reported a 56 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional to £22.5 million from turnover up from £60.3 million to £80.8 million. Earnings per share reached 26½p (20.7p) and a final dividend of 5.6p makes a total of 34.4p (27½p).

There was a charge of £3.3 million from the integration of Gibbs Mew, which it acquired in February, including about 50 redundancies.

Ted Tuppen, chief executive, attributed the strong like-for-like sales growth to a focus on tenanted and leased pubs,

without the "distractions" of brewing or managed houses.

"We haven't discovered any magic. We're just doing our job effectively," he added.

Mr Tuppen said that the group, which recently bought Mayfair Taverns for £37.4 million, continued to seek acquisitions. He declined to comment on possible targets, but is understood to have decided against bidding for the tenanted estates put up for sale by Vaux and Greenalls.

A less upbeat note was sounded by Mansfield, which yesterday reported a 4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in the half year to September 26. Excluding the Russian problems, pre-tax profits were up 6.7 per cent to £12.3 million from turnover 1.6 per cent higher at £89.5 million.

A dire summer and faltering consumer confidence hit trading at its pubs and contributed to a 1.9 per cent decline in beer volumes. Sir David White, Mansfield's chairman, said there were "not yet any indications of market improvements at home or abroad".

Earnings per share were 3.7 per cent lower at 12.39p, although it has lifted the interim dividend to 2.5p (2.35p).

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	Orange	BT	Virgin
International calls to USA	12.5p	15.0p	15.0p
International calls to Europe	10.0p	12.0p	12.0p
International calls to Asia	15.0p	18.0p	18.0p
International calls to Africa	15.0p	18.0p	18.0p
International calls to Australia	15.0p	18.0p	18.0p
International calls to New Zealand	15.0p	18.0p	18.0p



For more information on Orange, visit our website at www.orange.co.uk or visit us at www.orange.co.uk

Comparisons include VAT and are based on standard network recommended peak-time call rates excluding discount or optional schemes, promotional offers or service provider mark-up. Orange comparison based on Orange Talk 60, Vodafone comparison based on Vodafone 80 tariff, Cellnet comparison based on Regular Caller Plus tariff.

كذا من الاصل

كندا من الأصل

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing various building materials stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing various distributor stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing various building materials stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

DISTRIBUTORS

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

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LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing various leisure and hotel stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

MINING

Table listing various mining stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

OIL & GAS

Table listing various oil and gas stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing various other financial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing various pharmaceutical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing various printing and paper stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

PROPERTY

Table listing various property stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing various retail and food stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing various general retail stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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TRANSPORT

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Table listing various bond yields and interest rates.

Main table of equity prices listing various stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

my bell... WALL STREET... Includes a line graph showing market trends and promotional text for a bell brand.

US media company to buy TMBG

BY MANUS COSTELLO

THE speculation surrounding The Media Business Group, the advertising planner, came to an end yesterday as the company announced that a £27.9 million cash offer has been agreed, making millionaires of its founder and its managing director.

The bid comes through Mediacom/TMBG, a newly formed company that will become a subsidiary of Grey Advertising, the US media group.

The offer of 107p per share represents a premium of 40 per cent on Monday's closing price of 76½p. Shares of Media Business Group have been trading erratically, peaking at 134½p in March following the announcement of takeover talks, but falling back in early October when the deal was called off.

Stephen Allan, managing director, said that the volatility of the equities market had disrupted the deal in October but that "the break in negotiations made both parties realise this was a good move".

Mr Allan holds 9 per cent of the company and stands to make more than £2.5 million from the deal.

Allan Rich, who founded the company in 1975 and is currently chairman and chief executive, holds 33 per cent of shares. He will make more than £8.5 million from the deal.

The Media Business Group plans and buys advertising time and space in various media, and has clients including Ikea and Tag Heuer.

Last year the group showed pre-tax profits of £2.1 million on a turnover of £171 million.

Analysts said that the offer had been expected at up to 120p per share earlier in the year, but that the agreed price was "sensible".

Alstom slides on fears of shrinking Asian markets

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Alstom, the Anglo-French engineer formerly known as GEC Alsthom, fell by almost 9 per cent yesterday after the company fuelled market fears of a shrinking Asian order book.

The news came as the group announced its first results since it floated in June. Pierre Bilger, president, gave warning that orders for goods with a short-term cycle were likely to slow over the next two years and the

number of tenders for larger and longer-term contracts, notably in Asia, would also fall.

Some 21 per cent of Alstom's export business is with Asia, and some analysts have been concerned that this could be hit by the depreciation of Asian currencies.

The warning came on the back of the announcement of increased net income for the six months to September 30 up 15 per cent to 120 million euros (£85.7 million) on sales down 2 per cent to 6.35 billion

euros. However, when figures from Cegelec, the French engineering business bought at the time of the company's flotation are stripped out, Alstom's first-half results were 12 per cent lower.

Mr Bilger predicted that net income for the full year would be in the range of 285 to 315 million euros, at the lower end of analysts' expectations.

He said the company was preparing itself for falling orders by reinforcing and accelerating its cost-reduction pro-

gramme. Future restructuring plans include possible redundancies in the UK and abroad following on from the 5,000 workers already laid off over the past year.

"We are aiming to double the group's US sales to some 2 billion euros and are not excluding further acquisitions there," he said.

Alstom is active in industrial engineering such as power stations, high-speed trains and metro systems.

The company's new orders, which usually do not generate

revenue for two to three years, rose to 7.27 billion euros from 6.40 billion euros last year, boosting the total order book to 16.02 billion euros or 17.3 months of work.

The company yesterday also announced a contract worth over 200 million euros to design and supply two 900-megawatt boilers for a new power plant outside Shanghai, China.

Shares in the Alstom, which is quoted in London, Paris and New York, yesterday closed at Fr137.8 (£14.72).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Alusuisse in talks with German group

ALUSUISSE-LONZA Holding, the Swiss aluminium, packaging and chemicals maker, yesterday confirmed it was in talks with Viag, the German conglomerate, on some kind of co-operation. There has been speculation that Viag, which has a market value of about £12 billion, may make a £5 billion offer for Alusuisse. "These discussions have involved varying degrees of co-operation, and have not resulted in any concrete agreement," Alusuisse, which also calls itself Algroup, said.

Viag has a core energy, utility business but is also a telecommunications provider and has industrial activities in aluminium, packaging and chemicals. Algroup has been seen as vulnerable since last February when it was disclosed that Martin Ebner, Switzerland's best-known corporate raider, had bought a 6.3 per cent stake.

Good growth at Rebus

REBUS, the IT applications and services company, yesterday said that it was continuing to generate excellent growth as it announced pre-tax profits up 32 per cent to £3.7 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover was up 19 per cent to £48.23 million. Earnings per share were 2.37p (1.96p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 0.77p (0.70p). Harold Cotnam, chairman, said that the company would stick to its strategy of increasing its five divisions and had no plans for any large acquisitions.

HW remains bullish

HW GROUP, the specialist recruitment consultancy that floated in June, yesterday reported a 56 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £1.9 million for the six months to September 30. The company said: "Despite economic uncertainty, trading overall remains buoyant. We view the likelihood of skills shortages disappearing as a very remote possibility." HW Group said gross fee income was up 56.2 per cent to £27.6 million. Basic earnings per share were 5.8p (6.3p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 1p.

Helical Bar on the up

HELICAL BAR, the property developer, yesterday reported profits up 24 per cent to £8.2 million for the six months to September 30, with turnover little changed at £60.2 million (£60.1 million). The company said that while financial market turmoil had meant "the outlook for rental growth has undoubtedly deteriorated", it did present the chance to buy opportunistically. In the first half, net rental income was 5 per cent higher at £9.0 million. The dividend was raised to 4p from 3.5p, with earnings per share up 51 per cent to 25.2p.

Great Portland ahead

GREAT PORTLAND ESTATES, the property developer, said yesterday that conditions in the markets in which it operates had not deteriorated, despite world economic problems. The company said it expects to report second-half results broadly in line with those in the first half. Great Portland saw net rental income increase 8 per cent to £5.9 million in the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profits jumped to £28.4 million from £15.4 million last time. Earnings per share were 5.7p (3.3p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 3p (2.9p).

P&S sees no sign of recession

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers, the regional newspaper and convenience store group, said yesterday it saw no sign of recession in its business and advertising revenues were continuing to rise.

Charles Brims, chief executive said yesterday: "We have not seen any sign in any of our businesses of an economic downturn." P&S is, however, less dependent than most regional newspaper groups on classified job advertisements.

The company announced a 62 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £9.6 million in the six months to September 26.

Operating profits from regional newspapers rose by 37 per cent to £4.3 million on revenues up 13 per cent to £35.1 million. Contract printing revenue rose by a third to £7 million.

One Stop Community Stores, P&S's convenience store business, increased operating profits by 26 per cent to £2.5 million on revenue up 18 per cent to £66.2 million.

The company, which already has 201 One Stop Stores, plans to open at least 40 more a year for the foreseeable future.



Challenger: Martin Jay, who revealed that turnover at Vosper's support services arm rose by 78 per cent in the past six months

Strong orders boost Vosper

VOSPER THORNYCROFT, the warship builder, yesterday said it had enough orders to guarantee work for the next two years as the company diversifies out of its traditional business.

Vosper's order book has jumped from £163 million in March to £653 million, supporting both work in support services and shipbuilding.

Support services, which works on military outsourcing contracts, is worth more than £400 million.

Vosper, whose chief executive is Martin Jay, is aiming for support services to bring in half of the company's revenue. At present it delivers 43 per cent of sales after turnover in the division increased 78 per cent in the six months to

September 30 compared with the same period last year.

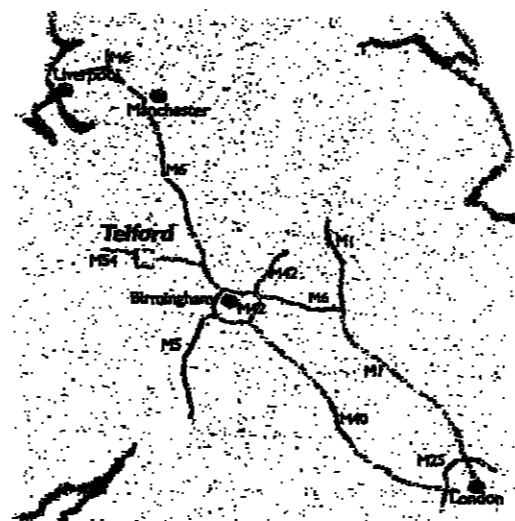
Vosper is looking to spend up to £50 million on new businesses which would fit in with its drive to forge a broader company. Industry experts believe a sale of Vickers's marine propulsion operation could be possible after Vickers sold Rolls-Royce cars and amid consolidation in the in-

dustry. Vosper has also said it would work with other companies in joint initiatives.

In the half year it increased pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £14.8 million with earnings per share rising 8 per cent to 30½p. The interim dividend, payable on January 13, was lifted 9 per cent to 9p.

Tempus, page 26

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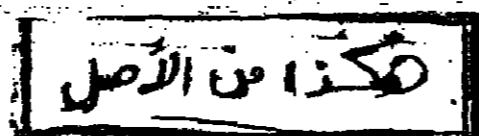
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Swiss aluminum... confirmed... German conglomerate...

growth at Rebus

Rebus... growth... remains bullish

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including American Growth, European Growth, and Global Growth.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including UK Growth, US Growth, and International Growth.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including Bond Funds, Money Market Funds, and Specialized Funds.

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MUSIC Itzhak Perlman excels at the Barbican PAGE 33

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Into the Woods, into the Donmar PAGE 34



Top dog with an eye on the downside

Actor George Clooney has a novel way of dealing with fame — he assumes it won't last. Martyn Palmer reports

George Clooney has a reputation as a regular guy. Take the time he bleached his hair blond after losing a basketball game.

somewhere going: 'I was very famous! Everyone liked me! I was the sexiest man alive!'

went wrong. Then Foley breaks out and takes a federal marshal (Lopez) hostage. In a key scene, both are spooned together in the boot of a getaway car and the attraction, if somewhat unlikely, is instant and convincing.

'At the time ER took off I was 34 and had eight failed TV shows behind me'

Michelle Pfeiffer and Batman and Robin. None lived up to box-office expectations and Batman took a critical mauling.

He is, however, keen to point out that although ER made him a star, he had certainly served his time before being cast as Dr Doug Ross.

Today he lives happily in Hollywood with his girlfriend, the French law student Celine Balitran, 26. They have no plans to marry — Clooney was married once before.

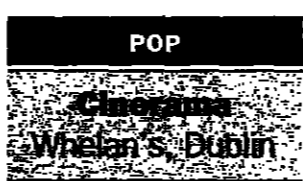
'I feel more comfortable about my choices now,' he says. 'Even though every one of the first few projects I did while I was doing ER was a great break for me.'



Is there life after ER? George Clooney appears to have cracked it with Out of Sight, released in Britain next week

Rapt in vivid sound colours

If Morrissey was the king of indie during the 1980s, David Gedge was the prince. His band the Wedding Present counterpointed the grand romanticism of the Smiths with an earthier, kitchen sink schtick.



Va Va Voom sneaking into the shops during the summer all unnoticed. Lyrically, the same scenarios are played out — Gedge castigating girlfriend over her infidelity.

create the lush ultra-pop normally associated with bands such as the Lightning Seeds. But then Gedge has rarely stood still: the Wedding Present's major label debut was a 10in LP of Ukrainian folk music.

cians on stage. Cinerama are officially a duo — Gedge's partner, Sally Murrell, is adept at keyboards, harmonies and, on the slowly captivating Ears, lead vocals.

THE climax to the London Jazz Festival, a series of concerts performed by French musicians under the umbrella title Vagues Nouvelles, might have been specifically designed to counter the notion that the presence of substantial quantities of so-called "world music" in the festival's programming was an indication of how impoverished jazz had become.

Heavy on the Gallic

trumpet and saxophone solos soaring over a dainty web of softly tinkling strings and gentle percussion. Tinkling strings — this time from the Breton harp of Kristen Nogues — also featured strongly in her concert with British reeds player John Surman.

The blending perceptible in the music of violinist Dominique Pifarely and pianist François Couturier was intramusical — between jazz and contemporary classical music — rather than intercultural.

Advertisement for Kim Criswell and Wayne Marshall at Wygmore Hall. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

Large advertisement for 'FOUND' by Audi, featuring a car and the text '1998 Audi A4 2.8 V6 170hp 2000cc 170hp 170hp'. Includes contact number 0343 699777.

A live and kicking tradition Nigel Williamson gets into the swing of the Jewish Music Festival

Klezmer, the Jewish music of Eastern Europe almost wiped out during the Holocaust, today has an appeal that reaches far beyond its traditional cultural ghetto. That it survived at all was mostly due to Jewish emigrants to America who got out before Hitler destroyed their communities.

This week Schecter took over Islington's Union Chapel without the orchestra but with his five-piece Klezmer Festival Band. Drawing upon the same musical roots as the concerto, this was the party version, and it was not long before he had the audience on its feet doing a traditional Yiddish circle dance around the pews.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Fit as' at the top and 'WITH THE RED' at the bottom, with a graphic of a person.

فكنا من الأصل

Fit as the finest fiddles

MUSIC: Richard Morrison
welcomes two revelatory books about the great violin-makers

The words "Strad" and "priceless" go together as naturally as Yehudi and Menuhin. True, no musical instrument has yet broken through the million-pound barrier at auction (£947,000 is the record). But the finest of the violins made around 300 years ago by the master craftsman of Cremona do change hands for several million pounds apiece in private deals.

Mystique and hype doubtless play their part in the cult of the Strad. There are many fine violins who claim that, for sheer tonal richness, the 1,000 violins made by Antonio Stradivari are eclipsed by the 150-odd surviving fiddles of his far less worldly Cremonese neighbour Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù. Indeed, some of the most prominent virtuosos in history, including Paganini, Heifetz and Kreisler, preferred to play Guarneris.

Then there are the historians who say that yet another Cremonese family workshop, the Amatis, deserve a greater slice of posterity's respect than they are usually accorded. Preceding both Stradivari and Guarneri, the Amati family pioneered the shape and sound of the fiddle as we know it today.

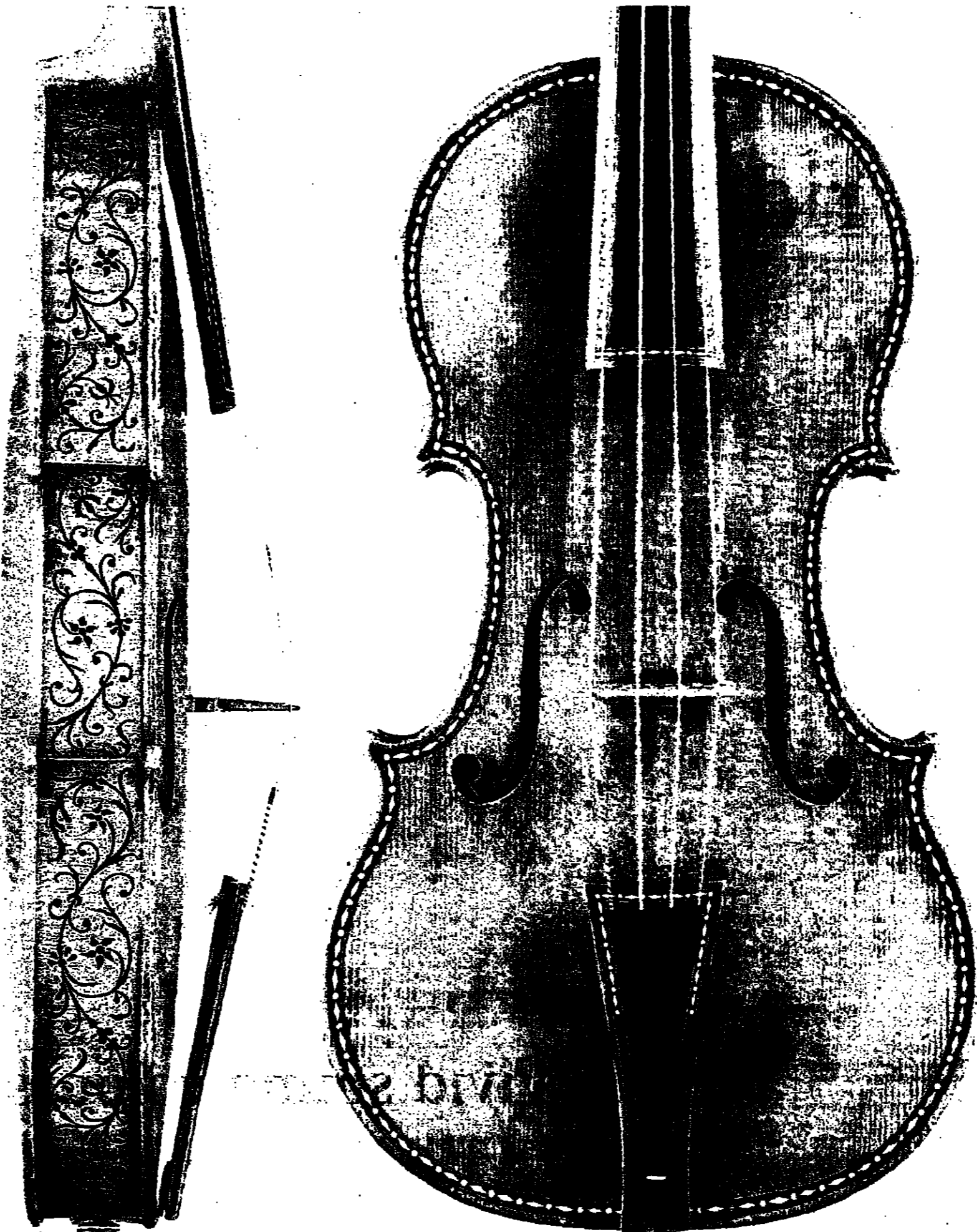
And finally there are the hard-nosed anti-romantics who maintain that there is no "lost secret" about the art of violin-making as practised in early 18th-century Cremona. They believe (with some justification) that, after a lean couple of centuries, superb violins are again being crafted. And if these instruments don't yet carry the gilt-edged investment potential of the Strads and Guarneris (the world record price for a modern instrument is still under £20,000), so much the better. Musicians can afford to buy them.

Such arguments will be renewed this week with the publication by the London violin dealer Peter Biddulph of two remarkable books. The first is a study of Guarneri's life and art, gorgeously illustrated with frontwards, backwards and sideways photographs of 25 of his instruments. Four years ago, to mark the 250th anniversary of Guarneri's death, Biddulph brought together these instruments in a never-to-be-repeated exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

This two-volume book, published in a limited edition of 2,000, commemorates that achievement with essays and masses of technical detail, but chiefly with staggeringly beautiful life-size photographs. It comes at a pretty staggering price, too: £800 if you want the leatherbound version, or a mere £400 in cloth. Yet even before its official publication Biddulph has sold 850 copies.

And just as the Cremonese makers spurred each other on to still more remarkable instruments, so Biddulph's Guarneri project had an entirely unexpected repercussion for Stradivari scholars. Guarneri's life is poorly documented, and many enigmas surround his work. So at the time of the Met exhibition Biddulph commissioned two scholars, Carlo Chiesa and Ezana Rosengard, to scour Cremona's archives for documents that might shed more light on his genius.

They did make a sensational discovery, but not about Guarneri. Hidden away in a dusty official file, probably unopened for 250 years (something to the subsequent embar-



Side and front views of the "Cipriani-Potter" violin — one of Antonio Stradivari's early instruments, made by the Cremonese master craftsman in 1683

ment of the Italian Government), was the last will and testament of Antonio Stradivari.

Dated January 1729, it consists of a manuscript written in Stradivari's own hand, and three subsequent revisions. These, splendidly illustrated with facsimiles, translations and interpretations by Chiesa and Rosengard, form the content of Biddulph's second book: *The Stradivari Legacy* (a comparative snip at £200 leatherbound or £100 cloth-bound).

Taken together, the will offers a fascinating glimpse of the tensions inside the Stradivari family and workshop — an

awareness, perhaps, of a great era drawing to an end — as well as an insight into the old master's mind as he wrestled with the question of who should take on the family business when he died. Sublime craftsman he might have been, but he comes across as a ghastly father, carrying a lifelong grudge against his most independent son, Ormobono, for a two-year jaunt to Naples that the young man had undertaken some 30 years earlier.

In the event, the golden age of the Cremonese makers came crashing to an end with Stradivari's death, eight years later. Chiesa and Rosengard

note the irony: "Stradivari's long productive life and prolonged dominance had the perhaps unintentional effect of bringing the whole Cremonese violin trade to its knees."

If Stradivari had not been such a supremely gifted carpenter and ruthless businessman, would the Amati and Guarneri families have carried on making superb violins through the 18th century and beyond? Possibly. But when you look at the sumptuously glowing photographs in these books — or, better still, when you hear a Strad or Guarneri stroked into soulful song in the concert hall — you cannot conceive of how the violin could be made any more perfect than the way it was made in those Cremona workshops.

Man's genius for coaxing entrancing sounds out of inanimate material didn't cease to exist after 1737, of course. It simply moved on to fresh delights: the pianoforte, the saxophone, the euphonium, the electric guitar, the synthesizer. All splendid instruments — but I think it may be a while before anyone spends £800 on a book about euphoniums.

• The Guarneri and Stradivari books can be obtained from Peter Biddulph, 24 St George's St, London W1R 0ND (0171-491 8621)

The charmers

Izhak Perlman can pack the Barbican twice over, but perhaps the real star of this show was the small, stooping figure who followed him on to the stage.

The Neapolitan pianist Bruno Canino comes to London all too rarely. It is mostly on disc that one can hear his exquisite artistry, marked by a translucent sound and acute focus. Mozart named his Sonata in D, K306, a "Clavierduetti mit Violin" and indeed it was the pianist who caught our attention, with a performance where every element was in miraculous balance.

Canino provided a bright, virtuoso narrative into which Perlman entered unobtrusively, his brisk, nutty staccato characterising an unshowy approach. His violin sound is famously weighted towards its bass, and there is a dark core even to his higher range. But if the first movement seemed earthbound, Perlman's palette bloomed in the *Andantino cantabile*, where his inimitable warmth came through. His way of looping up notes like old-fashioned handwriting can sound jarring in this repertoire, yet it is unselfconscious. More problematic is the uncomfortable wayward tuning on high, loud notes, the wide vibrato, the sense of discontinuity when he plays large-scale works, particularly noticeable in the Strauss Sonata.

This ambitious, dramatic

RECITAL

work needs a powerful momentum to be convincing. Canino had the piano lid almost closed, which produced a fine balance in most of the programme, but for this work it should have been up: Perlman needed a gargantuan torrent against which to engage, while Canino could produce only a mercurial accompaniment.

The second half dissolved into "An Evening with Izhak Perlman" with two pieces which could have been encores, followed by four real encores. Not that he does the entertainer badly: the charm with which he introduced his encores makes you wish he had announced the whole programme. Still, did his choice of Schmitt's graceful *Suite in the Old Style* and two short Smetana pieces betray a lack of stamina? Or was it for pleasure? He basked in these works, reserving a degree of communicative intensity for the string of lullabies, a Wienawski Caprice, Tchaikovsky's *Humoresque* and Joachim's version of Brahms's first Hungarian Dance. Few do them better.

HELEN WALLACE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MARIE MACLEOD

Age: 18
Profession: Cellist.

Where to hear her? Tonight she's playing Beethoven, Brahms and Bloch at 7pm in Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, as part of the St Cecilia International Festival of Music.

Yet another prodigy? Well, she started the cello at the age of eight, "simply because my school in Woodbridge, Suffolk, was giving free cello lessons". But she'd expressed an interest in the piano at two and started music lessons at five. At 11 she found herself at the Yehudi Menuhin School.

Was that a shock to the system? "Yes, I found it very hard until my third year. Mainly because I didn't like boarding, and there was immense pressure to work. But that's what I needed."

Until now... Just two weeks ago Marie started a four-year degree course in music at the Hochschule, Cologne. "I went there mainly because Frans Helmerson is a professor there. Three years ago I was in his masterclass at the Manchester Cello Festival, and I was blown away by his teaching."

Other mentors? Steven Isserlis is the main icon. "And Daniel Shafran. His sound is really individual. He made me aware that the cello is above all a vocal instrument."

Current preoccupations? "Apart from tonight's recital, not a lot. I've just changed teacher, so I'm concentrating on changing my technique. That's drastic: all to do with how I hold the bow."

And she composes too? "Oh no! Not any more. I'm not patient enough. But I make jewellery, you know. Earrings, rings — all in silver. I'm trying to find an evening course in Cologne so I can continue with that."



HILARY FINCH

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This may have been an extraordinarily rich century for music, but it has also been a bad century for musicians: indeed, the creativity that comes out of hardship could have been the theme of An Evening of Banned Music at Islington's Union Chapel. Simon Rattle's special presentation under the auspices of *Index on Censorship*. But this concert was never intended as a comprehensive survey of persecuted composers, and the music was allowed to speak for itself.

Music, of course, says things that words cannot express. That is partly why musical expression has often been feared by regimes. Most potent of all is the combination of words and music. This concert opened with Jill Gomez singing a Catalan folk song that long served as a symbol of resistance. Gomez also gave free-spirited accounts of two songs Poulenc wrote in support of the French Resistance; it was a treat to hear Rattle as a piano accompanist.

More powerful, maybe because Shostakovich suffered more, were the Russian composer's *Four Monologues* based on Pushkin, in which he takes his country's art song tradition and subverts it. Robert Lloyd's singing was magnificently dark, and Eleonora Bekova's piano playing underlined the music's bleakness.

Non-vocal music was represented in the first half only by four of Conlon Nancarrow's glittering *Studies for Player-Pi-*

Rattling good idea

LONDON CONCERTS

ano, which range from boogie-woogie to impressions of Mexico, the country where he went to live after ill-treatment by American authorities. Rex Lawson pedalled them with energetic precision.

Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, composed in a Nazi prison-camp, is a triumph of creativity over repression. Rattle was joined by an impressive line-up of Tasmin Little (violin), Lynn Harrell (cello) and Anthony Fay (clarinet) in a performance of shinning spirituality.

Whichever of Stravinsky's many and multi-faceted theatrical works is the finest, one stands out as easily the most exciting. So it was natural that *The Rite of Spring*, which sounds as explosive now as it did at its infamous premiere 85 years ago, should have been the score to round off Michael Tilson Thomas's illuminating survey of Stravinsky's Stage Music with the London Symphony Or-

chestra. And coupling it with *Perséphone*, described by the composer Elliott Carter as "a humanist rite of spring", was an imaginative touch that increased the unseasonal glow of a bleak November evening at the Barbican.

Even without dancers, a sense of theatricality was supplied here by the visual spectacle of a crack ensemble like the LSO. This was a performance of staggering virtuosity, characterised by the biting attack so typical of the band. But right from the opening's quiet, wailing bassoon, it was also notable for the dark, woody sound of the orchestra, evocative of pagan pipes. Tilson Thomas shaped an account that went to the primitive core of the work.

Perséphone belongs to another, later phase of Stravinsky's creative life, and is a much gentler, more humane piece. The score, featuring some of Stravinsky's chastest harmonies and sonorities, has a cool beauty that was brought out by all the performers here.

The London Symphony Chorus and New London Children's Choir were on excellent form. The tenor Stuart Neill had bright and beefy tone appropriate to the declamatory passages of the high priest Eumolpus. Most of all, the actress Stephanie Cosserrat was the radiant embodiment of *Perséphone*. Tilson Thomas conducted with real feeling for the work's unique style.

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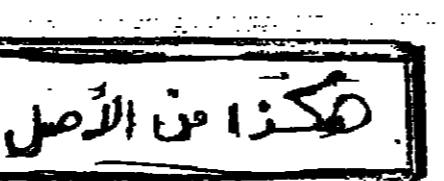
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On the street where you live

A quiet road in Chelsea provides a telling index of change in the housing market. Report by Rachel Kelly

Those trying to judge the state of the housing market are bombarded by statistics that are all but meaningless, mostly because they are so general. This month, for instance, the Halifax reported a 1.2 per cent rise in prices, yet others say that the slump in the market is worsening.

Further confusion is sown by the difference between aspirational asking prices and the price at which a house eventually changes hands. Agents rarely confirm the actual price at which a house is sold, and may be bound not to reveal it by confidentiality agreements with their clients. Nor, at the moment, does the Land Registry reveal the price paid, although the Government is considering changing the system.

In a rising market, asking prices race ahead and can be matched by buyers in bidding wars. But in today's falling market, the difference between asking and achieved prices can be as much as 15 per cent. Savills, the estate agents, believes that there is a third category of prices — the real value of property, judged by professional valuers and based on comparable sales. The company's index of residential values for prime properties in Central London uses this real-value approach; movements are established by looking at what has happened to similar properties on the open market.



Halsey Street SW3, where a house recently sold for twice the price it fetched in 1991, proving that even in uncertain times, homes in select areas will outperform the market

close to Sloane Square, and the houses command a premium because of its location. Currently Lane Fox is selling No 44, a west-facing house which is on the market for £950,000. Two other houses on the eastern terrace are also on the market for the same price. Yet only this summer, a similar house was being marketed for £1.2 million — a change that reflects the slump in the City, the turmoil in Russia and the sense of economic gloom. No 39 Halsey Street has also reflected the changing market over the past ten years. This Victorian terraced family house has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and an attractive 35ft west-facing garden. It has recently been redecorated. Houses on the west side of the street have generally fetched somewhat lower prices because of the overland rumble of the District and Circle Lines, and the fact that both

houses and gardens are slightly smaller than on the eastern side. Lane Fox first sold No 39 in May 1993 for £690,000. It had been sold through a different agent only two years previously for £485,000 — a 40 per cent increase. According to the Halifax House Price Index, house prices had been decreasing in the country as a whole from early in 1990. In Greater London, the decline had started a year earlier and was steeper, with prices down 5.3 per cent on the previous year. But the Halsey Street sale indicates the truism that a good family house in a select location can outperform the market and make a mockery of national statistics. "There is always a lot of interest in Halsey Street," says Lulu Egerton, a director of Lane Fox. Its pretty houses of suocco and brick make it an extremely popular street in Chelsea. The size of the properties

— in between that of the cottages and of the larger houses available in other parts of the borough — makes them ideal for parents with young children. The street itself is wide, light and tranquil, creating an agreeable environment for residents. One inhabitant of the street is Michael Clode, a senior partner in a law firm. He has lived in Halsey Street for five years with three of his four daughters. "It is a very convenient and pleasant place to live," he says. "It is close to many pubs, restaurants and shops, and because it is a wide street, parking is never a problem. It has also retained some of the character that other areas have lost." By 1996, No 39 was for sale once again. After remaining on the market for three months, it eventually sold for its 1993 price, £690,000.

HOUSE VALUES: THEN AND NOW			
Information on Western Properties	£1.2m	24	23
15 houses have added a floor, bedrooms from 3 to 5. Numbers 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 overlook railway	£440,000	26	22
	£7/90	27	21
	£435,000	28	20
	8/12/89	29	19
		30	18
		31	17
		32	16
		33	15
		34	14
		35	13
		36	12
		37	11
		38	10
		39	9
		40	8
		41	7
		42	6
		43	5
		44	4
		45	3
		46	2
		47	1

Although the market was beginning to pick up at this stage, price increases were fairly negligible and, in the Greater London area, they fell again in 1995. The surprisingly high increase in 1993 may account for the static price. The most recent sale of the house was in May on February 20, contracts were exchanged on May 15 and the deal was completed on August 3. Although the property failed to reach its asking price of £985,000, it eventually went for £970,000 — a 100 per cent increase in price since 1991, reflecting the crazy market earlier this year in prime Central London. "This came at a time when house prices everywhere were on the increase. The Halifax House Price Index showed a 5.5 per cent rise in the UK as a whole, and an 11.8 per cent rise in Greater London, on last year's figures. Now a similar house would sell for around £900,000.

"Yes, we are beginning to feel the recession," Ms Egerton says. "Values in Halsey Street are 5 to 10 per cent down. There are fewer buyers around, too. But a house in good condition..." Research by John D Wood looked at changing house prices over the past ten years in Palace Gardens Terrace, Notting Hill Gate. Between 1988 and 1993, property there generally kept pace with inflation, losing only 4.25 per cent in real terms. However, in the past five years prices increased by 76 per cent, outstripping inflation. In the past ten years, prices have increased by 69 per cent. In 1988 a five-bedroom, white stucco house sold for £640,000. In 1993 the same house sold for £810,000. By 1998, the house was sold for £1.6 million.

THE Knightsbridge flat where Diana, Princess of Wales, lived before her marriage has come off the market. It was put up for sale at £450,000 in May, but failed to sell at that price and now the family who owns it has decided to stay. The late Princess moved into the flat, which her parents bought for £50,000, in July 1979. She once described her days at Colchester Court with her flatmates Virginia Fitzmaurice, Carolyn Pride and Anne Bolton as the happiest of her life: "I laughed my head off there."

COOMBE COTTAGE, a former pub in Hanging Langford, near Salisbury, is for sale. Jamie Compton, a doctor of botany, and his wife Tania, the gardening editor of *House & Garden*, have lived there since 1989. FPD Savills Salisbury office is selling the house, which boasts a garden of rare and unusual plants, for a guide price of £210,000.

THE White Lodge, off Bishops Avenue in Highgate, North London, was owned by Lana Turner, the star of the original version of *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Imitation of Life*, and Mario Lanza, the Italian singer and actor. The property has eight bedrooms and bathrooms, a swimming pool and sauna. Harrolds International is selling it for £7 million.

A HOUSE in Aston Mews, South Kensington, that was once the home of the British film director Nicholas Roeg is for sale. His films included *Walkabout*, *Castaway*, and the Oscar-winning *Don't Look Now*. The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and the whole of the ground floor is a 36ft by 22ft studio. The freehold of the house is for sale through Lutro Brand for £675,000.

HELEN MIRREN, the star of *Prime Suspect*, has been seen viewing a three-bedroom flat in Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, being sold by Druce for £750,000.

SUE MACGREGOR has put her three-bedroom flat in Belzize Park NW3, on the market. Ms MacGregor is the presenter of the *70-day* programme on Radio 4. She is looking for a larger house nearer Broadcasting House. The Hampstead office of Behr and Butchoff is selling the 83-year lease for £285,000.

FPD SAVILLS denies that it has sold No 118 Eaton Square to Lord Harris of Peckham, the chairman of Carpetright and Allied Carpets. The house is reputed to have gone for £17 million.

BEN WAKEHAM

The price of peace: faith and an old coat hanger

Dowsers claim that they can sense what makes a healthy home. Emma Mahony put them to the test



John Emin uses a pendulum to sense the energy lines

After a month in our new house, we were desperate. Our 18-month-old baby, Humphrey, was hardly sleeping. Nor were we. He had a constant, nagging cough. The doctor could do nothing. Then, one evening, I moved Humphrey's cot to the other side of the bedroom. He slept through the night without a whimper, without a cough. And we had our first night's sleep for a month — thanks to a dowser called John Emin. A coincidence, you might say, that moving the cot allowed Humphrey to sleep. But take the case of Jane McIlroy (not her real name), a young Scotswoman who suffered from chronic fatigue syndrome. Her bed had remained in the same place since she was two years old. She was in hospital to have an ovarian cyst removed when her parents approached Mr Emin. He dowsed her bedroom from a map and found a positive line crossing a negative line where her bed stood. He advised them to move the bed when she came out of hospital. Now, four months later, she is a different person, learning to swim and enthusiastically planning a round-the-world trip with her new boyfriend. These are just two pieces of anecdotal evidence to suggest that there is something to support the claims of "geopathic stress" experts. Geopathic stress is not easy to explain. Try telling a cynic that there are invisible forces such as positive and negative energy lines running through the earth, which may be responsible for your health.

Yet geopathic stress experts believe that if you are suffering from ME, chronic tiredness or even cancer, it may be because your bed is lying on a negative line — or, even worse, the point at which a positive line meets a negative line. The Dulwich Health Society even believes that all health problems can be put down to geopathic stress. "Credulous, anti-scientific nonsense," as Victor Lewis-Smith put it when reviewing Channel 5's *Housebusters*, a television programme on the subject. However you view it, geopathic stress is certainly not scientific. Even the literature from the British Society of Dowsers admits that "although many theories have been put forward over the years, there is no satisfactory scientific explanation of the dowsing reaction". Its literature suggests that it is associated with changes in brain rhythms and muscular responses, and most dowsers use some form of instrument, such as a rod or pendulum, to amplify their responses. Evidence that good results are achieved is largely anecdotal. Curious to know more, I conducted an experiment. I asked the British Society of Dowsers to suggest two people on its register; the society suggested John Emin and Major-General Bill Cooper, and I invited them to dowse my home for these mysterious energy lines. Both were to dowse the house from the same hand-drawn plan of the first floor. The shapes of the rooms were included, but no details of what purpose the rooms served. A page ripped out of the local street guide helped

them to determine the exact location of north and south. The results were enough to raise eyebrows — particularly when the men were invited round to complete the experiment. Both Mr Emin and Major-General Cooper found the same positive line crossing the door of the bedroom in exactly the same place, albeit at slightly different angles. The major-general found no negative lines, Mr Emin found two — one running through the nursery where the baby's cot stood, another through the sitting room. The second part of the experiment was to get our neighbours, who had never dowsed before, to dowse the house for lines with rods made from galvanised coat hangers. According to the society, anyone can dowse, although some find it more difficult to obtain a response than others. All can develop the art through practice. With no knowledge of the experts' findings, neighbour number one stood in the corner of the sitting room and asked the rods if there were any negative lines. As he walked across the middle of the room, the coat hangers crossed. His wife did the same, and the hangers crossed at the same spot. They then repeated the ritual, asking for positive lines, and each found one in roughly the same place, outside the door. When I showed them the maps, which corresponded with their findings, they wanted to know more. What can you say, except that it seems to work? What is certain is that all dowsers such as John Emin can relate stories about people suffering from cancer, or from chronic fatigue syndrome, who felt better once their beds had been moved on to positive lines. Even Mr Emin admits that it may be a "placebo effect". But for the price of a coat hanger, it's worth it for a good night's sleep. British Society of Dowsers, 01233 750253

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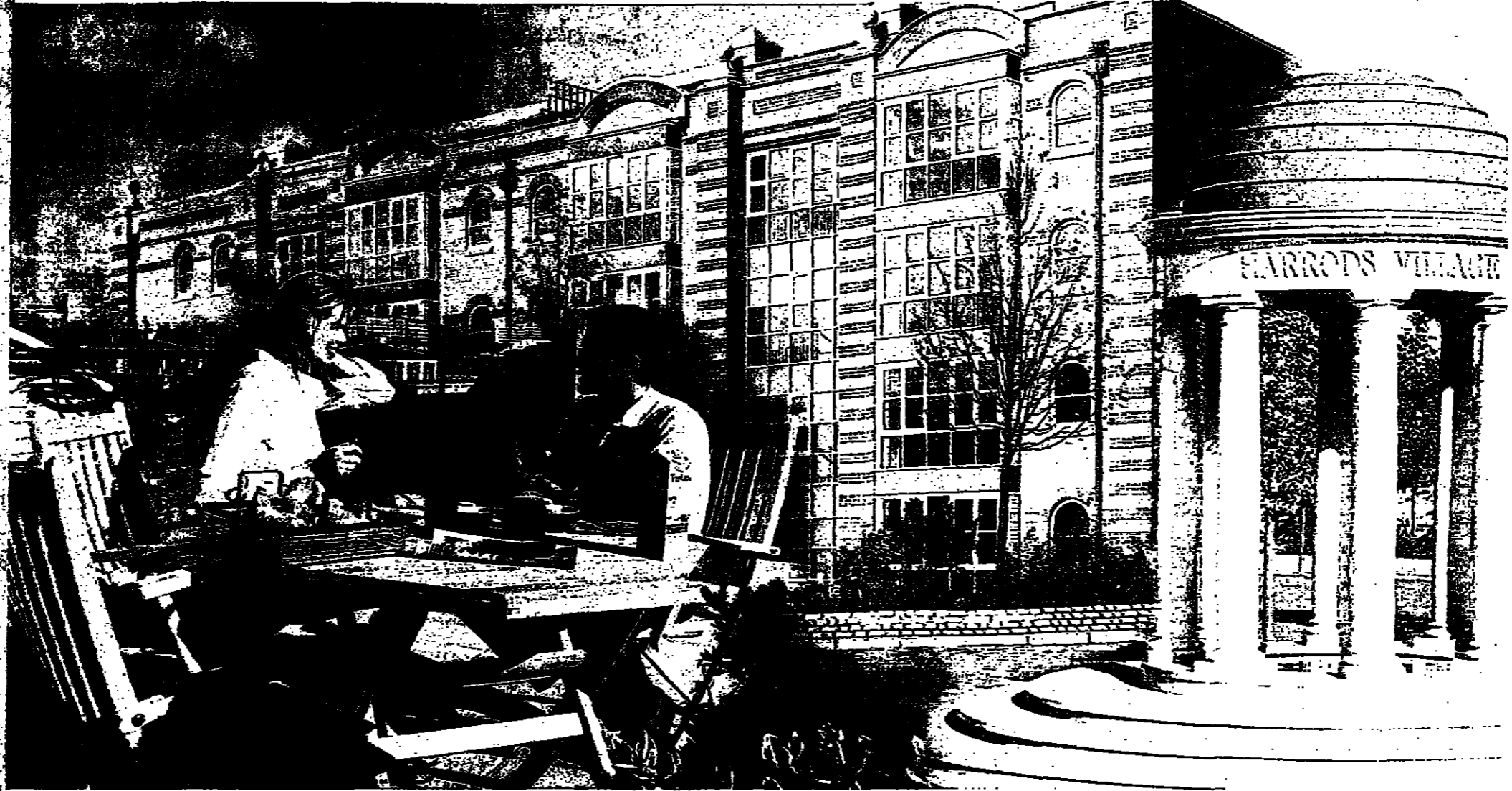
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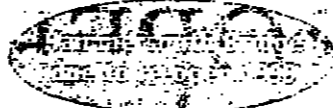
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Cambridge to find consolation in defeat

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RUGBY UNION

Cambridge try to find consolation in defeat

Cambridge University.....13 Fijians.....49

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT THE Fijians, unbeaten after three of their eight matches, have the World Cup next year on their minds. Cambridge University's date with destiny at Twickenham is less than a month away and the shape of their starting XV for the meeting with Oxford is emerging, even though Grange Road yesterday was shrouded in frost and mist.

A form line drawn through the touring team suggests that this will be as open a University match as there has been in years. The Dark Blues went down 46-8 on Thursday, so Cambridge will have rejoiced at scoring two tries to Oxford's one. The second was particularly well taken by Nick Buoy, though by the time he crossed the line the Fijians had passed 40 points for the third time on tour.

It has been a good year for Fijian rugby, with victory over Scotland and heartening displays in the World Cup qualifying games, and, as Brad Johnston, their coach for the past four years, said, they are slowly coming into line with the rest of the world.

He would love the tour to have culminated with a full international but his players, six of them new to the squad, will receive a solid grounding in what to expect in the France pool next autumn. That includes soft grounds and freezing conditions. "When the temperature drops to 28 degrees in Suva my boys put their sweaters on," Johnston



Patricio Noriega, the former Argentina international, trains with the Australia squad in Paris yesterday. Noriega will make his debut for Australia against France on Saturday and could face England at Twickenham on Saturday week

Pini swaps shirts before game

By DAVID HANDS AND KARL JOHNSTON En route to the qualifiers, Georgia defeated Croatia, Denmark and Russia and were beaten 14-3 by Italy. Romania's onward march, in scoreline terms, was easier, as they recorded emphatic wins over Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine.

Going on previous international appearances, the experience in the Romania side to night will be provided by Gheorghe Solomon, the left wing, (28 caps), Romeo Gontaciu, the centre, (18), Constantin Stan, the tight-head prop, (20) and Catalin Draguceanu (23), the No 8 and captain.

Meanwhile, Keith Wood, the Harlequins hooker, seems certain to be in Ireland's 22-man squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Romania on Saturday, after the settlement of his recent contractual problems with the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU).

The IRFU issued a statement yesterday saying that Wood "had been invited to join the squad".

Glasgow's esteem is dented by Maoris

By ALASDAIR REID

THE brief and unspectacular lives of Scotland's super-district sides may be drawing to a close, having failed to justify themselves in either a playing or financial sense. Out of the European Cup and shorn of their international players there is an aimlessness about these Flying Dutchmen of northern hemisphere rugby as they drift from one inconsequential friendly to the next.

Already the subject of stinging criticism from within Scotland, the self-esteem of Glasgow Caledonians could hardly have been helped yesterday when the New Zealand Maoris named a weakened side to face them at McDermid Park, Perth tonight. The Maoris, having seen off Edinburgh Reivers and Scotland already, clearly believe that they can leave the country unbeaten without calling on all their first-choice players.

Hence, there is no place in the starting line-up for Bruce Reihana or Norm Berryman, their impressive three-quarters, although both are on the bench. Tony Brown, the fly half, is rested, giving Raymond MacDonald his first start of the tour. James Kerr, Steve Mackin and John Akuriga — on left wing, blind-side flank and at hooker respectively — also play their first full games.

The Caledonians, who conceded 62 points against South Africa last Tuesday, may be anxious to restore pride, but injuries have robbed them of key players. Kevin McKenzie, the hooker, has been ruled out, giving Gavin Scott, briefly impressive as McKenzie's replacement last week, his first start of the season. Cameron Liffie, at scrum half, is another enticed change.

GLASGOW CALEDONIANS: T Hayes, J Craig, G Simmers, J Jardine, A Satchell, L Brown, G Macdonald, R Scott, A Vella, S Campbell, G Penner, G Reacher, J Shaw, G Murray, R Macdonald, D Shaw, A Collins, G Paterson, M Wallace, J Price, J Morrison, A O'Neil. NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: A Cashmore, G Dalrymple, G Bosh, D Gibson, J Kerr, G Mackintosh, R Duggan, K Gilmour, J Murray, G Fooka, L Laidlaw, J Coe, D Walker, J Mackie, G Smith, D Mac Farlane, J Fyfe, J Morrison, R Bhatia, S McFarlane, G Fooka, Laidlaw, T Pavek, H Ford.

Wigan duo passed fit for Ireland debuts

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Wigan pair of Gary Connolly and Terry O'Connor, fresh from Great Britain duty against New Zealand, make their international bows for Ireland in the final Tri-Nations match against Scotland, at Partick Thistle Football Club, Glasgow, tonight.

Both players passed fitness tests yesterday after they were slightly injured in the final match of the series, at Watford last Saturday. "They were desperate to play," Steve O'Neill, the Ireland coach, said. O'Neill has shifted Martin Crompton from loose forward to scrum half for the absent Shaun Edwards.

Adrian Morley, who missed the series and is Ireland-qualified, and Dale Laughton, who represented Scotland last year, are not available because of injury, although players from the JJB Super League make up the bulk of the two sides, who both suffered narrow defeats by France.

Billy McGinty, the Scotland coach, said: "Were not looking at it as a wooden-spoon decider. This is the first year that the Rugby Football League (RFL) has got totally behind us and a lot depends on the progress in this match for both countries."

However, the RFL are disappointed that the Scottish Rugby Union pulled an advertisement for the rugby league international out of the match programme for South Africa's opening tour match, also at Firhill, last week, because Glasgow Caledonians are playing the New Zealand Maoris at the same time.

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Young Ipswich Town player given the difficult task of upholding goalkeeping tradition

Wright protects English heritage

By MATT DICKINSON

WHAT someone asked Richard Wright at Bisham Abbey this week is your main strength as a goalkeeper. "He's English," piped up a voice from the back, but it was not a laughing matter. Once a flourishing trade, the goalkeeping industry in England appears to be dying out. Wright is not just the best young custodian of international calibre — he is practically the only one.

Of the ten matches in the FA Carling Premiership last weekend, there were only six goalkeepers eligible for England, and one of those was a 35-year-old, Dave Beasant. Two others, David James and Shaka Hislop, have already been discarded from the international fold, which leaves the thirty-somethings, David Seaman and Nigel Martyn, along with Michael Oakes of Aston Villa (Tim Flowers was injured).

Nor is the shortage likely to be alleviated. Alex Ferguson has said he will shop abroad for a successor to Peter Schmeichel, and who can blame the Manchester United manager when Tranmere Rovers can demand more than £3 million from Everton for Steve Simonsen, a teenager with less than 50 first-team games?

No wonder, then, that England have been keen to advance Wright through the ranks quickly, inviting the Ipswich Town goalkeeper to training camps before selecting him for the full squad for the international against the Czech Republic tonight.

At Bisham Abbey, he has been under the guidance of Ray Clemence, who won 61 caps in an era when England was blessed with a number of outstanding goalkeepers. Clemence now faces the problem of discovering his successors. "In the 1970s and 1980s, we used to think goalkeepers grew on trees," Clemence said. "There were eight or ten in the old first division who were



In safe hands: Wright's excellent performances for Ipswich Town have earned him a call-up to the full England squad despite his tender years

good enough to play for England. Now there are only half a dozen Englishmen playing in the top league, and one of those is Dave Beasant. Between the ages of 21 and 30, we don't have too many. "It is a problem and if we don't address it properly, it will become a major problem. If you look at Dino Zoff and Peter Shilton, who went on until they were over 40, we still have time because David Seaman is 35. It is not a crisis yet,

but we need to bring them on with proper coaching." It is all good news for Wright, as evidence is mounting that Seaman is beginning to feel his years at Arsenal. Wright acknowledges, though, that he is still prone to lapses and has much to learn. If he fails to develop, it will not be for lack of diligence. An unflamboyant son of Suffolk, he admires the calm authority of Seaman, rather than Schmeichel's rantings or the

clowning antics of Grobelaar. Although he turned 21 less than a fortnight ago, Wright appears older, partly because of the fact that he became a father this month, but also because he had to grow up quickly when his father, Colin, died of cancer three years ago. He admits that he "could have gone to pot" then, but instead, throwing himself into his goalkeeping with renewed vigour, and his talents have lured a posse of Premiership scouts to

Portman Road, Manchester United's included. "I hear the speculation, but I can put it behind me," he said. "Experience wise, you need to be in the Premiership but I've got 2½ years left on my contract at Ipswich and I'm hoping to get there with this team." Ipswich, in no small part thanks to Wright's bulky frame, are second in the Nationwide League first division. While Wright may have to watch tonight from the bench, he is guaranteed one international appearance next Wednesday when a Nationwide League team plays a select XI from Italy's Serie B in Terni.

"He can handle anything," Clemence said. "He has great reflexes and he concentrates well. He's a good communicator with his defenders and he's gaining first-team experience every week." England's future may be secure, but there does not seem to be much alternative.

Coach inspires with new Czech pattern

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AFTER the limp performances against Sweden, Bulgaria and Luxembourg, what better fixture could England have arranged than against the Czech Republic at Wembley tonight? It is widely perceived as an opportunity to rid the demons of the recent past against opponents who appear to have done little since finishing as runners-up to Germany in the European championship final two years ago.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, knows better. Hopefully, the Czechs might have subsequently failed to qualify for the World Cup finals, but they have since embarked on a ten-match unbeaten run, nine games of which have been under the guidance of Jozef Chovanec, their new coach, who succeeded Dusan Uhrin in January. In transition they may be, but impressively so.

Their victims include Uruguay, Paraguay, Ireland and Denmark and they also lead group nine, after winning their first three qualifying matches for the European championship in 2000. Hoddle may have preferred Eastern European opposition to replace Yugoslavia, but could perhaps have chosen from the lesser-ranked nations. Can the media and the masses stomach another gut-wrenching England display?

In contrast to Hoddle, whose line-up will bear scant resemblance to his natural selection, Chovanec has almost a first-choice squad at his disposal. Only Jan Suchotarek, the Strasbourg defender, and Pavel Nedved, the Lazio midfielder player, are missing. "It is a match of special importance for both teams from the better

half of European football," Chovanec said yesterday. "I expect a strong fight between two different football schools and cultures. Will it be physical? I expect it to be so."

Chovanec cut a stern figure, rarely smiling. "I don't think I will be trying too many experiments," he said. "I know my players' ability, so there is no need to. We will not be paying particular attention to England's experiments." He had to be persuaded to reveal how he had retrained the Czech flame. "It is difficult to speak about myself," he said. "I suppose I have tried to stabilise the team and develop the positive features from my predecessor."

Chovanec is a diplomat, too, and steered deftly around leading questions from the Scottish press. The Czechs travel to Scotland for a Euro 2000 qualifying match on March 31, a game that could have a considerable impact on the outcome of the group. "It is very difficult to say if we will field the same side against Scotland," Chovanec said. "There are similarities between English and Scottish football, which is why this is a good game for us, but it is a long time between now and March."

He did not feel the need to consult Dr Jozef Venglos, the manager of Celtic and his compatriot, about Scotland's merits. He again erred on the side of caution when asked in which half of European football, the top or the bottom, Scotland could be placed. "They are in the upper half," he said. "They are a good side and the proof is that they played in the World Cup finals." Chovanec is smart. His players are smart. England should beware.

Minister's promise on racism

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TONY BANKS, the Minister of Sport, has pledged to look into the problems of racism in football in an effort to encourage more black people into management.

At present, only two black men, Ruud Gullit of Newcastle United, and Viv Anderson at Middlesbrough, play a part in management in the FA Carling Premiership, but Mr Banks, speaking at a Show Racism the Red Card conference, said: "As long as I am sports minister I will make sure something is done. These are not empty words, you will see."

Crystal Palace are investigating an apparent shortfall of about £400,000 in the purchase of the Chinese players, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai. They were bought this season for what Palace thought was a combined fee of £1.35 million, but the Chinese Football Association, the selling body, is expecting to receive only £950,000. Palace are to ask for assistance from the English FA to help them deal with the matter.

Kevin Keegan, the Fulham manager, has signed the Bristol Rovers striker Barry Hayes, 26, for a fee of £2 million. Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, is will be out of action until the new year, but will not need an operation on his injured arm. Flowers missed the Worthington Cup victory at Newcastle and the Premiership defeat at Manchester United last week.

Milosevic savours happier times

FROM TOM WALKER

IN the bitter cold of the OFK Belgrade stadium, there was one figure left after training, bent double, spitting into the cloying mud as a thin mist smoked from his tracksuit. Better to spit at the pitch than those around it is one of the footballing lessons taken on board by Savo Milosevic, formerly of Aston Villa, over his past year of transition.

The striker has emerged from the infamous altercation with Aston Villa supporters last January that ended with his departure from the Midlands. Revitalised by Spanish first-division football with Real Zaragoza, he expects to start for Yugoslavia against Ireland in his hometown of Belgrade tonight. No more

must the 25-year-old endure the terrace taunts of "you're not fit to wear the shirt" that rang in his ears as he donned the claret and blue of a club at which he felt ill at ease, within a city and a country that he, his wife Vesna and son Nikola never really enjoyed.

"To be honest, I'm a lot happier now," Milosevic said. "I don't regret anything, but I made a mistake and I take responsibility for that. Once you've done something, there is no going back. You just try to learn from it."

Even today in Belgrade, Milosevic must endure ribaldry from Red Star supporters, who remember him as a precocious youngster with Partizan, their local rivals. "Save the monkey," they cry; for Partizan fans he remains "Savo the

master". Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, appears unperturbed; perhaps rightly so his team's victory in their group over Croatia, who finished third in the World Cup. McCarthy said Milosevic "blew hot and cold" in England and believes the Slav mentality can be suspect.

"Their game is swashbuckling, free-flowing and expansive, but they get a goal

against them and they are nervous," McCarthy said, recalling the manner in which Germany fought back in the World Cup, forcing a 2-2 draw after being 2-0 down.

McCarthy is low-key about the encounter and plays down the physical aspect, a focus for some. "This stuff about us being physical is mythology," he said. "The Yugoslavs hold it up and tackle just as we do."

Politics are low on the agenda, but Milosevic said: "We keep on hearing about 200,000 Albanian refugees, but what about the one million Serbs from the war, 300,000 looking for somewhere to live in Belgrade. What happens to them? God knows, I'd like to come back and live here one day, but for the moment I'm concentrating on my job."

GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Croatia	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
FYR Macedonia	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	3	0	3	1	13	0	0

RESULTS: Sept 18, Ireland 2 Croatia 0, Sept 19, FYR Macedonia 4 Malta 0, Oct 12, Malta 1 Croatia 4, Oct 14, Ireland 5 Malta 0, Croatia 3 FYR Macedonia 2.

McMenemy remains on guard

By GEORGE CAULKIN

LIKE many of those employed in Lawrie McMenemy's precarious chosen profession, the Northern Ireland manager wisely peppered his conversation with such battle-worn phrases as "complacency," and "no easy games," yesterday. The mantle of favourites sits comfortably on few sides in international football.

For McMenemy, the experience was a new one and he countered by claiming that his team remained "underdogs" for the visit of Moldova in European championship qualifying group three tonight. "Look at where we draw our

squad from; see how much they're playing," he said. However, the fact remains that a Windsor Park crowd of some 10,000 will arrive expecting a comfortable home victory.

Such optimism will, in part, be based on Moldova's unimpressive, if brief, track record. They are some 29 places below Northern Ireland in the latest Fifa world rankings, and, in the five years since their full affiliation after splitting from the former Soviet Union, they have mustered just one competitive away win.

Their cause is further weakened by the suspension of Igor Oprea, the influential midfielder player, who scored twice in Moldova's 3-2 defeat against

Finland, but it is not simply the status of the opposition that provides cautious grounds for hope. After beating Finland last month, victory tonight would propel Northern Ireland into joint leadership of a group also containing Turkey and Germany.

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Turkey	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Germany	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Northern Ireland	2	0	2	1	3	3	3
Moldova	0	0	2	1	3	0	0

RESULTS: Sept 15, Finland 3 Moldova 2, Turkey 3 Northern Ireland 0, Oct 12, Turkey 1 Germany 0, Northern Ireland 1 Finland 0, Oct 14, Moldova 1 Germany 3, Turkey 1 Finland 3.

Elite youth face tests of fitness

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND'S elite youth footballers are to undergo twice-yearly tests to monitor their physical progress and identify why so many suffer injuries that threaten their careers.

In the first extensive national study conducted anywhere in the world, more than 10,000 youngsters aged from nine to 21, and attending the 34 new academies at Premiership and Football League clubs, will be examined and measured by the two physiotherapists and academy doctors detailed to look after England's future internationals at these clubs.

From January 1, all injuries suffered by these players that require them to rest for two days will be collated by the FA's medical education centre's research department at Lillleshall. This will help researchers discover why some youngsters suffer injuries at particular ages.

Alan Hodson, the FA's head of sports medicine, said: "There is a massive need for this research. We aim to be setting standards that no one else has ever done in football in these numbers, and at this age and level."

There has been widespread concern that English youngsters play too often, sometimes suffering chronic injuries. In 1993 and 1994, 17 per cent of the applicants to the FA National School at Lillleshall had stress fractures to their lower spine, compared to six per cent of ordinary youngsters of the same age.

Rijkaard takes bold gamble

FROM ROB HUGHES IN GELSENKIRCHEN

THE industrial Ruhr in Germany is anything but hospitable in the depths of winter. The river is chill personified, snow is falling and more than 1,000 police and specially trained troops are being amassed for the so-called friendly encounter tonight between Germany and Holland.

Given that a Dutch supporter was killed in a fight prearranged between followers of Ajax and Feyenoord a year ago, given the legacy of the World Cup, after which a policeman in Lens lies with brain damage after being attacked by German thugs, Ulrich Grzella, the police chief here, is justified in his precautions.

"We assume that violence-prone fans will come to Gelsenkirchen," he said, speaking of the home city of Schalke 04, which has a condemned stadium and a new one that is about to be built for 385 mil-

lion deutschmarks, is — in the sporting sense — a venue for one country looking backwards, the other forward.

When heavy criticism forced out Bertie Vogts as the national coach this autumn, Germany persuaded Erich Ribbeck, 61, to come out of retirement. He has unretired Lothar Matthäus and Andreas Möller as the libero and the playmaker, the two most creative roles in the German side.

In contrast, when Guus Hiddink, the coach who coached Holland to the World Cup semi-finals and then left for Real Madrid, the Dutch handed the reins to Frank Rijkaard, who, at 35, is two years younger than Matthäus.

Rijkaard had never coached a team in his life, though, along with Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, he was invited to take a course this summer. He has been quite bold and futuristic in deciding that if Dennis Bergkamp is so seldom available to travel for his country, then Ruud van Nistelrooij will take his place.

Van Nistelrooij has had just one spectacular season in the top flight. He scored 13 goals in 30 games for Heerenveen last season, and was sold to PSV Eindhoven, who are under the wing of Bobby Robson, the former England manager.

Tonight, providing we can concentrate on the football, it will be intriguing to see the new boy from Holland taking on the old-timer, Matthäus.



Matthäus: back as libero

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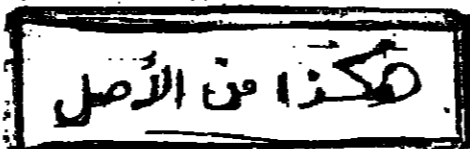
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UP FOR AIR

Richard Evans on a project turning science fiction into fact

National offers armchair ride

In a scene reminiscent of a Steven Spielberg science fiction film, a cross between a rocket capsule and an aircraft suddenly began to gyrate in the corner of a Coswold field yesterday... as the Martell Grand National came to Gloucestershire.



Viewers are given the opportunity chance to experience the thrill of riding over the Grand National fences

RICHARD EVANS
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which offers up to 20 people at a time a virtual reality ride over the unique Grand National fences... The Morphis MovieRide theatre, to give the capsule its proper title, has been developed after jockeys wear small cameras on their helmets while riding at Aintree during last season's Grand National meeting.

where it will be an essential part of a new visitors' centre. The Grand National is one of arguably only two races a year which capture the attention of the non-racing public... After an investigation and report into the most recent running of the Grand National, some important changes are being implemented for next year's renewal.

National to the people. You only have to see the television viewing figures or the betting turnover on the race to realise how much it matters to the general public... Unfortunately, Aintree - or Merseyside police - still seem intent on subjecting spectators to intolerable levels of security, including personal searches, at next year's meeting.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Wetherby results table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and odds.

Newton Abbot results table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and odds.

Lingfield Park results table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and odds.

Hereford results table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and odds.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement featuring a chess knight icon and the name Robert Sheehan.

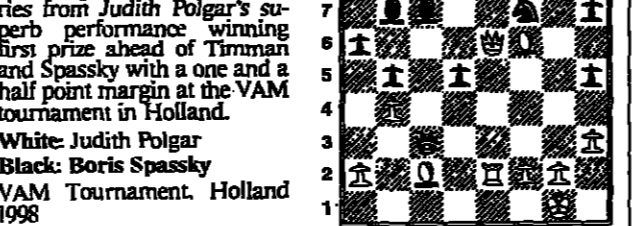
By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
A recurring theme is that the correct play in a suit in isolation may not be the correct play in the context of the whole hand.

Bridge hand diagram showing a deal with West and East hands, and a contract of Five Clubs by South.

If you are going to open on 9-counts, I suppose the North hand is one of the more suitable - a good main suit, with the three honours all in the long suits... So Lodge crossed to dummy with a heart to lead the queen of clubs.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement featuring a chess knight icon and the name Raymond Keene.

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Today I give two further victories from Judith Polgar's superb performance winning first prize ahead of Timman and Spassky with a one and a half point margin at the VAM tournament in Holland.



White: Judith Polgar, Black: Boris Spassky, VAM Tournament, Holland 1998
Ruy Lopez
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb7 7.Bg5 O-O 8.e5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Qd3 Nc7 11.Nd2 Bc6 12.Nf3 Nf6 13.Ng5 Nd7 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qd3 Nc7 16.Nd2 Bc6 17.Nf3 Nf6 18.Ng5 Nd7 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qd3 Nc7 21.Nd2 Bc6 22.Nf3 Nf6 23.Ng5 Nd7 24.Nxe5 Nxe5 25.Qd3 Nc7 26.Nd2 Bc6 27.Nf3 Nf6 28.Ng5 Nd7 29.Nxe5 Nxe5 30.Qd3 Nc7 31.Nd2 Bc6 32.Nf3 Nf6 33.Ng5 Nd7 34.Nxe5 Nxe5 35.Qd3 Nc7 36.Nd2 Bc6 37.Nf3 Nf6 38.Ng5 Nd7 39.Nxe5 Nxe5 40.Qd3 Nc7 41.Nd2 Bc6 42.Nf3 Nf6 43.Ng5 Nd7 44.Nxe5 Nxe5 45.Qd3 Nc7 46.Nd2 Bc6 47.Nf3 Nf6 48.Ng5 Nd7 49.Nxe5 Nxe5 50.Qd3 Nc7 51.Nd2 Bc6 52.Nf3 Nf6 53.Ng5 Nd7 54.Nxe5 Nxe5 55.Qd3 Nc7 56.Nd2 Bc6 57.Nf3 Nf6 58.Ng5 Nd7 59.Nxe5 Nxe5 60.Qd3 Nc7 61.Nd2 Bc6 62.Nf3 Nf6 63.Ng5 Nd7 64.Nxe5 Nxe5 65.Qd3 Nc7 66.Nd2 Bc6 67.Nf3 Nf6 68.Ng5 Nd7 69.Nxe5 Nxe5 70.Qd3 Nc7 71.Nd2 Bc6 72.Nf3 Nf6 73.Ng5 Nd7 74.Nxe5 Nxe5 75.Qd3 Nc7 76.Nd2 Bc6 77.Nf3 Nf6 78.Ng5 Nd7 79.Nxe5 Nxe5 80.Qd3 Nc7 81.Nd2 Bc6 82.Nf3 Nf6 83.Ng5 Nd7 84.Nxe5 Nxe5 85.Qd3 Nc7 86.Nd2 Bc6 87.Nf3 Nf6 88.Ng5 Nd7 89.Nxe5 Nxe5 90.Qd3 Nc7 91.Nd2 Bc6 92.Nf3 Nf6 93.Ng5 Nd7 94.Nxe5 Nxe5 95.Qd3 Nc7 96.Nd2 Bc6 97.Nf3 Nf6 98.Ng5 Nd7 99.Nxe5 Nxe5 100.Qd3 Nc7 101.Nd2 Bc6 102.Nf3 Nf6 103.Ng5 Nd7 104.Nxe5 Nxe5 105.Qd3 Nc7 106.Nd2 Bc6 107.Nf3 Nf6 108.Ng5 Nd7 109.Nxe5 Nxe5 110.Qd3 Nc7 111.Nd2 Bc6 112.Nf3 Nf6 113.Ng5 Nd7 114.Nxe5 Nxe5 115.Qd3 Nc7 116.Nd2 Bc6 117.Nf3 Nf6 118.Ng5 Nd7 119.Nxe5 Nxe5 120.Qd3 Nc7 121.Nd2 Bc6 122.Nf3 Nf6 123.Ng5 Nd7 124.Nxe5 Nxe5 125.Qd3 Nc7 126.Nd2 Bc6 127.Nf3 Nf6 128.Ng5 Nd7 129.Nxe5 Nxe5 130.Qd3 Nc7 131.Nd2 Bc6 132.Nf3 Nf6 133.Ng5 Nd7 134.Nxe5 Nxe5 135.Qd3 Nc7 136.Nd2 Bc6 137.Nf3 Nf6 138.Ng5 Nd7 139.Nxe5 Nxe5 140.Qd3 Nc7 141.Nd2 Bc6 142.Nf3 Nf6 143.Ng5 Nd7 144.Nxe5 Nxe5 145.Qd3 Nc7 146.Nd2 Bc6 147.Nf3 Nf6 148.Ng5 Nd7 149.Nxe5 Nxe5 150.Qd3 Nc7 151.Nd2 Bc6 152.Nf3 Nf6 153.Ng5 Nd7 154.Nxe5 Nxe5 155.Qd3 Nc7 156.Nd2 Bc6 157.Nf3 Nf6 158.Ng5 Nd7 159.Nxe5 Nxe5 160.Qd3 Nc7 161.Nd2 Bc6 162.Nf3 Nf6 163.Ng5 Nd7 164.Nxe5 Nxe5 165.Qd3 Nc7 166.Nd2 Bc6 167.Nf3 Nf6 168.Ng5 Nd7 169.Nxe5 Nxe5 170.Qd3 Nc7 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Bc6 252.Nf3 Nf6 253.Ng5 Nd7 254.Nxe5 Nxe5 255.Qd3 Nc7 256.Nd2 Bc6 257.Nf3 Nf6 258.Ng5 Nd7 259.Nxe5 Nxe5 260.Qd3 Nc7 261.Nd2 Bc6 262.Nf3 Nf6 263.Ng5 Nd7 264.Nxe5 Nxe5 265.Qd3 Nc7 266.Nd2 Bc6 267.Nf3 Nf6 268.Ng5 Nd7 269.Nxe5 Nxe5 270.Qd3 Nc7 271.Nd2 Bc6 272.Nf3 Nf6 273.Ng5 Nd7 274.Nxe5 Nxe5 275.Qd3 Nc7 276.Nd2 Bc6 277.Nf3 Nf6 278.Ng5 Nd7 279.Nxe5 Nxe5 280.Qd3 Nc7 281.Nd2 Bc6 282.Nf3 Nf6 283.Ng5 Nd7 284.Nxe5 Nxe5 285.Qd3 Nc7 286.Nd2 Bc6 287.Nf3 Nf6 288.Ng5 Nd7 289.Nxe5 Nxe5 290.Qd3 Nc7 291.Nd2 Bc6 292.Nf3 Nf6 293.Ng5 Nd7 294.Nxe5 Nxe5 295.Qd3 Nc7 296.Nd2 Bc6 297.Nf3 Nf6 298.Ng5 Nd7 299.Nxe5 Nxe5 300.Qd3 Nc7 301.Nd2 Bc6 302.Nf3 Nf6 303.Ng5 Nd7 304.Nxe5 Nxe5 305.Qd3 Nc7 306.Nd2 Bc6 307.Nf3 Nf6 308.Ng5 Nd7 309.Nxe5 Nxe5 310.Qd3 Nc7 311.Nd2 Bc6 312.Nf3 Nf6 313.Ng5 Nd7 314.Nxe5 Nxe5 315.Qd3 Nc7 316.Nd2 Bc6 317.Nf3 Nf6 318.Ng5 Nd7 319.Nxe5 Nxe5 320.Qd3 Nc7 321.Nd2 Bc6 322.Nf3 Nf6 323.Ng5 Nd7 324.Nxe5 Nxe5 325.Qd3 Nc7 326.Nd2 Bc6 327.Nf3 Nf6 328.Ng5 Nd7 329.Nxe5 Nxe5 330.Qd3 Nc7 331.Nd2 Bc6 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Nf6 413.Ng5 Nd7 414.Nxe5 Nxe5 415.Qd3 Nc7 416.Nd2 Bc6 417.Nf3 Nf6 418.Ng5 Nd7 419.Nxe5 Nxe5 420.Qd3 Nc7 421.Nd2 Bc6 422.Nf3 Nf6 423.Ng5 Nd7 424.Nxe5 Nxe5 425.Qd3 Nc7 426.Nd2 Bc6 427.Nf3 Nf6 428.Ng5 Nd7 429.Nxe5 Nxe5 430.Qd3 Nc7 431.Nd2 Bc6 432.Nf3 Nf6 433.Ng5 Nd7 434.Nxe5 Nxe5 435.Qd3 Nc7 436.Nd2 Bc6 437.Nf3 Nf6 438.Ng5 Nd7 439.Nxe5 Nxe5 440.Qd3 Nc7 441.Nd2 Bc6 442.Nf3 Nf6 443.Ng5 Nd7 444.Nxe5 Nxe5 445.Qd3 Nc7 446.Nd2 Bc6 447.Nf3 Nf6 448.Ng5 Nd7 449.Nxe5 Nxe5 450.Qd3 Nc7 451.Nd2 Bc6 452.Nf3 Nf6 453.Ng5 Nd7 454.Nxe5 Nxe5 455.Qd3 Nc7 456.Nd2 Bc6 457.Nf3 Nf6 458.Ng5 Nd7 459.Nxe5 Nxe5 460.Qd3 Nc7 461.Nd2 Bc6 462.Nf3 Nf6 463.Ng5 Nd7 464.Nxe5 Nxe5 465.Qd3 Nc7 466.Nd2 Bc6 467.Nf3 Nf6 468.Ng5 Nd7 469.Nxe5 Nxe5 470.Qd3 Nc7 471.Nd2 Bc6 472.Nf3 Nf6 473.Ng5 Nd7 474.Nxe5 Nxe5 475.Qd3 Nc7 476.Nd2 Bc6 477.Nf3 Nf6 478.Ng5 Nd7 479.Nxe5 Nxe5 480.Qd3 Nc7 481.Nd2 Bc6 482.Nf3 Nf6 483.Ng5 Nd7 484.Nxe5 Nxe5 485.Qd3 Nc7 486.Nd2 Bc6 487.Nf3 Nf6 488.Ng5 Nd7 489.Nxe5 Nxe5 490.Qd3 Nc7 491.Nd2 Bc6 492.Nf3 Nf6 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815.Qd3 Nc7 816.Nd2 Bc6 817.Nf3 Nf6 818.Ng5 Nd7 819.Nxe5 Nxe5 820.Qd3 Nc7 821.Nd2 Bc6 822.Nf3 Nf6 823.Ng5 Nd7 824.Nxe5 Nxe5 825.Qd3 Nc7 826.Nd2 Bc6 827.Nf3 Nf6 828.Ng5 Nd7 829.Nxe5 Nxe5 830.Qd3 Nc7 831.Nd2 Bc6 832.Nf3 Nf6 833.Ng5 Nd7 834.Nxe5 Nxe5 835.Qd3 Nc7 836.Nd2 Bc6 837.Nf3 Nf6 838.Ng5 Nd7 839.Nxe5 Nxe5 840.Qd3 Nc7 841.Nd2 Bc6 842.Nf3 Nf6 843.Ng5 Nd7 844.Nxe5 Nxe5 845.Qd3 Nc7 846.Nd2 Bc6 847.Nf3 Nf6 848.Ng5 Nd7 849.Nxe5 Nxe5 850.Qd3 Nc7 851.Nd2 Bc6 852.Nf3 Nf6 853.Ng5 Nd7 854.Nxe5 Nxe5 855.Qd3 Nc7 856.Nd2 Bc6 857.Nf3 Nf6 858.Ng5 Nd7 859.Nxe5 Nxe5 860.Qd3 Nc7 861.Nd2 Bc6 862.Nf3 Nf6 863.Ng5 Nd7 864.Nxe5 Nxe5 865.Qd3 Nc7 866.Nd2 Bc6 867.Nf3 Nf6 868.Ng5 Nd7 869.Nxe5 Nxe5 870.Qd3 Nc7 871.Nd2 Bc6 872.Nf3 Nf6 873.Ng5 Nd7 874.Nxe5 Nxe5 875.Qd3 Nc7 876.Nd2 Bc6 877.Nf3 Nf6 878.Ng5 Nd7 879.Nxe5 Nxe5 880.Qd3 Nc7 881.Nd2 Bc6 882.Nf3 Nf6 883.Ng5 Nd7 884.Nxe5 Nxe5 885.Qd3 Nc7 886.Nd2 Bc6 887.Nf3 Nf6 888.Ng5 Nd7 889.Nxe5 Nxe5 890.Qd3 Nc7 891.Nd2 Bc6 892.Nf3 Nf6 893.Ng5 Nd7 894.Nxe5 Nxe5 895.Qd3 Nc7 896.Nd2 Bc6 897.Nf3 Nf6 898.Ng5 Nd7 899.Nxe5 Nxe5 900.Qd3 Nc7 901.Nd2 Bc6 902.Nf3 Nf6 903.Ng5 Nd7 904.Nxe5 Nxe5 905.Qd3 Nc7 906.Nd2 Bc6 907.Nf3 Nf6 908.Ng5 Nd7 909.Nxe5 Nxe5 910.Qd3 Nc7 911.Nd2 Bc6 912.Nf3 Nf6 913.Ng5 Nd7 914.Nxe5 Nxe5 915.Qd3 Nc7 916.Nd2 Bc6 917.Nf3 Nf6 918.Ng5 Nd7 919.Nxe5 Nxe5 920.Qd3 Nc7 921.Nd2 Bc6 922.Nf3 Nf6 923.Ng5 Nd7 924.Nxe5 Nxe5 925.Qd3 Nc7 926.Nd2 Bc6 927.Nf3 Nf6 928.Ng5 Nd7 929.Nxe5 Nxe5 930.Qd3 Nc7 931.Nd2 Bc6 932.Nf3 Nf6 933.Ng5 Nd7 934.Nxe5 Nxe5 935.Qd3 Nc7 936.Nd2 Bc6 937.Nf3 Nf6 938.Ng5 Nd7 939.Nxe5 Nxe5 940.Qd3 Nc7 941.Nd2 Bc6 942.Nf3 Nf6 943.Ng5 Nd7 944.Nxe5 Nxe5 945.Qd3 Nc7 946.Nd2 Bc6 947.Nf3 Nf6 948.Ng5 Nd7 949.Nxe5 Nxe5 950.Qd3 Nc7 951.Nd2 Bc6 952.Nf3 Nf6 953.Ng5 Nd7 954.Nxe5 Nxe5 955.Qd3 Nc7 956.Nd2 Bc6 957.Nf3 Nf6 958.Ng5 Nd7 959.Nxe5 Nxe5 960.Qd3 Nc7 961.Nd2 Bc6 962.Nf3 Nf6 963.Ng5 Nd7 964.Nxe5 Nxe5 965.Qd3 Nc7 966.Nd2 Bc6 967.Nf3 Nf6 968.Ng5 Nd7 969.Nxe5 Nxe5 970.Qd3 Nc7 971.Nd2 Bc6 972.Nf3 Nf6 973.Ng5 Nd7 974.Nxe5 Nxe5 975.Qd3 Nc7 976.Nd2 Bc6 977.Nf3 Nf6 978.Ng5 Nd7 979.Nxe5 Nxe5 980.Qd3 Nc7 981.Nd2 Bc6 982.Nf3 Nf6 983.Ng5 Nd7 984.Nxe5 Nxe5 985.Qd3 Nc7 986.Nd2 Bc6 987.Nf3 Nf6 988.Ng5 Nd7 989.Nxe5 Nxe5 990.Qd3 Nc7 991.Nd2 Bc6 992.Nf3 Nf6 993.Ng5 Nd7 994.Nxe5 Nxe5 995.Qd3 Nc7 996.Nd2 Bc6 997.Nf3 Nf6 998.Ng5 Nd7 999.Nxe5 Nxe5 1000.Qd3 Nc7 1001.Nd2 Bc6 1002.Nf3 Nf6 1003.Ng5 Nd7 1004.Nxe5 Nxe5 1005.Qd3 Nc7 1006.Nd2 Bc6 1007.Nf3 Nf6 1008.Ng5 Nd7 1009.Nxe5 Nxe5 1010.Qd3 Nc7 1011.Nd2 Bc6 1012.Nf3 Nf6 1013.Ng5 Nd7 1014.Nxe5 Nxe5 1015.Qd3 Nc7 1016.Nd2 Bc6 1017.Nf3 Nf6 1018.Ng5 Nd7 1019.Nxe5 Nxe5 1020.Qd3 Nc7 1021.Nd2 Bc6 1022.Nf3 Nf6 1023.Ng5 Nd7 1024.Nxe5 Nxe5 1025.Qd3 Nc7 1026.Nd2 Bc6 1027.Nf3 Nf6 1028.Ng5 Nd7 1029.Nxe5 Nxe5 1030.Qd3 Nc7 1031.Nd2 Bc6 1032.Nf3 Nf6 1033.Ng5 Nd7 1034.Nxe5 Nxe5 1035.Qd3 Nc7 1036.Nd2 Bc6 1037.Nf3 Nf6 1038.Ng5 Nd7 1039.Nxe5 Nxe5 1040.Qd3 Nc7 1041.Nd2 Bc6 1042.Nf3 Nf6 1043.Ng5 Nd7 1044.Nxe5 Nxe5 1045.Qd3 Nc7 1046.Nd2 Bc6 1047.Nf3 Nf6 1048.Ng5 Nd7 1049.Nxe5 Nxe5 1050.Qd3 Nc7 1051.Nd2 Bc6 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Time to place the horses first

I have been whacking horses a fair bit of late. So has Frankie Dettori and so has Tony McCoy. Their whacking has made more of a mark than my own, as it were.

McCoy, the jump jockey, an extraordinarily talented serial champion at the age of 23, received an 18-day ban for his fifth whip offence this year on Monday. Dettori did not get banned at all; his frenzied, not to say demented, assault on Swain in the Breeders' Cup Classic, the richest horse race ever run, had a rather different effect.

That kind of whacking is permitted in the United States and Frankie, freed from the shackles of British rules, made the most of his chance. It cost Swain the race.

Swain swerved violently away from the whip, then ran straight, true and fast as soon as Dettori stopped whacking. Swain's crabbing across the track cost him vital ground and he was narrowly beaten. It was a poor way to treat a great racehorse, whether you are talking about horse welfare or winning races.

Both jockeys were sulky, and felt victimised in the aftermath of these events. McCoy

petulantly threw his whip to the crowd in victory on Saturday and seemed disturbed, some said close to the point of breakdown. Dettori was almost unapologetically monosyllabic when questioned about the Swain business. The words "I made a mistake" were beyond him.

It is an eternally difficult question. Both jockeys felt shattered because they were banned or criticised for doing their best. McCoy actually did get a slow horse home in first place; it is debatable whether another jockey could have done so. Both men feel hurt and confused. That is because the issue itself is confusing: an apparent paradox.

No one wants to employ a jockey who blinks in the moment of truth. Desire to win is part of a jockey's stock in trade. The jockey's desire is the final ingredient in the preparation of a racehorse to win a race. A jockey who gets a reputation as a softie will find himself unemployed. Owners and trainers want to win: jockeys need to please them.

Thus after the Derby, the winning jockey, Oliver Peslier, was banned for improper riding — but his mount [High-Rise] was not disqualified. Par-

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

The whip has a different function in racing to normal horse life, so it is logical that racing needs a specialised device. A thing like the Air Cushion whip is ideal for minimising the pain of sustained and repeated whacking — racing is the only part of the horse world that requires such a thing — while allowing the rider to use force and rhythm and surprise: all things that help a horse to go a bit faster, put in a supreme effort.

McCoy already uses a cushioned whip, a different version and good on him for that. It is one that looks a little less ostentatiously benign, but the ban for its overuse only increases McCoy's sense of persecution.

There are several points to consider. Both McCoy and Dettori ride with very short stirrup leathers. I couldn't begin to ride like that, still less jump. Remarkable riders, but their riding position means that use of the legs to drive a horse is limited if not impossible.

It follows that the whip is not the last but the first resort. Their stunningly effective use of balance and body position to urge a horse forward makes heavy use of the whip inevitable.

The second point is crucial: for whose benefit are the rules? The game is about winning; you will not find many puners appalled by overuse of the whip, not when their horse wins. And when racing people hear the words "animal welfare" they reach for their revolvers. There is much defensive talk about the "image of racing".

Never mind image. The point is not that an all-out assault on a tired horse looks bad. The point is that it is bad. Jockeys not only do their best; they are very anxious to be seen to be doing their best. It is an important part of the job: too important. Ostentatious use of the whip is often unnecessary; and in some cases, as Frankie could but will not tell us, downright counter-productive.

Marcus Armytage, a former jockey, wrote the other week about what must be done "if the animal welfare lobby is to be appeased". I suggest that racing pays absolutely no attention to the animal welfare lobby, whatever that is. Don't try to appease a lobby: try to look after the horses. It is a question of priorities.

TENNIS: DEFEAT FOR SANCHEZ-VICARIO MEANS HINGIS IS UNABLE TO OVERHAUL AMERICAN

Davenport confirmed as No 1

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK



Van Roost returns with great determination in her first round victory over Martinez.

THAT is it, the race is over, we can all go home. Before she has even lifted a racket with intent here, Lindsay Davenport has been guaranteed her place at the top of the rankings ladder. In the final tournament of the year, there are not enough top players left for Martina Hingis to beat — and so gain enough bonus points — to overhaul Davenport for the No 1 spot. And it is all thanks to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

As the Chase Championships eased into life on Monday night, Sanchez-Vicario played a stunningly awful match to lose to Irina Spirlea 7-6, 6-1 and so remove herself — and her ranking points — from the path of Hingis. It was, she said, the result of sheer exhaustion at the end of a very long season. It is a common cry around these parts at this time of year as the great and the good are undone by the reasonable and the average, although Spirlea is rather better than that.

She has had her moments, reaching the dizzy heights of No 7 last year, but she is an inconsistent soul who never seems to be able to maintain any momentum. What would it take to get back into the top ten or even break into the top five? "My brain has to work," Spirlea said. She may have her ups and downs, but she is nothing if not honest.

Much the same could be said of Nathalie Tauziat. Never one to make much of a fuss, she is, nevertheless, reaping the rewards of her most successful season on the circuit. The outing against Natasha Zvereva was a rematch of the

Wimbledon semi-final, but this time around there was less at stake and, as a result, nothing to be nervous about. Wasting as little time as possible, Tauziat won 6-3, 6-1 in front of a light sprinkling of dedicated supporters. "We

have played many times, but right now I am better than she is," Tauziat pointed out in her own inimitable style.

This year, for the first time, the championships have two daytime sessions, but no one appears to have told the good

people of New York, and Tauziat and Zvereva looked awfully alone in Madison Square Garden. Still, it was only to be expected — the night before, the Corel WTA Tour had held its annual awards ceremony — and forgot to bring the trophies. Donald Trump was left looking like a piece of strag without a knot in it, as he had nothing to give Davenport for being voted the player of the year. After an awards ceremony with no trophies, a match with no spectators seemed par for the course.

Not that the New York crowd, such as it is, is particularly knowledgeable about tennis. More used to watching the Knicks and the Rangers at this venue, one misguided, but well-meaning chap kept shouting: "Come on, Martina," as Conchita Martinez was losing to Dominique van Roost on Monday night. In her efficient way, Van Roost whistled past the firing Spaniard 7-6, 6-1.

Van Roost looked like a school teacher, neatly dressed in navy blue with a pristine white collar, while Martinez looked like the errant pupil who had forgotten to do her homework. This is Martinez's least favourite tournament and her least favourite surface and, after a while, Van Roost's crunching forehand was her least favourite shot. Once the first set had escaped her, Martinez was in no mood to fight and, with the holidays beckoning, she was off.

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Sapsford finds new lease of life

DANNY SAPSFORD, who was thinking of retiring from tournament tennis less than three months ago, beat Chris Wilkinson, the No 1 seed, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) in the first round of the British National championships at Telford yesterday.

"I had hardly won a singles match all year and just before the US Open I was thinking of quitting," Sapsford said. "I told Jeremy Bates that if there were any coaching jobs going at the LTA to let me know. 'I meant to quit after the Bournemouth tournament in

September but then I paired up with Lan Bale, a South African player, and we qualified for the doubles at the US Open and won two rounds. 'Since then I've only played doubles and last week Lan and I reached the semi-final in Santiago. So now I'm taking doubles really seriously. 'It doesn't carry the prestige of singles but the bottom line is you want to pay the bills when you have a family and a mortgage. If you win a few rounds you are in the money.' Sapsford's victory over

Wilkinson on his return to singles was not that unexpected. "I've beaten Willie the last four or five times we've met and felt I was favourite, which might sound a bit stupid when you're playing the top seed."

The other shock of the day came when Mark Hilton, 17, of Chester, beat Nick Gould, the No 5 seed from Bristol, 6-4, 6-4. Sam Smith, the top seed, began the defence of her women's singles title with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Felox Elsworth player Helen Crook.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	RUGBY UNION
International match: England v Czech Republic (at Wembley Stadium, 8.0)	World Cup: Georgia v Romania (at Lansdowne Road, 7.0)
European championship: Albania v Greece (2.0)	Pool two: Netherlands v Italy (at Huddersfield, 7.30)
Qualifying group three: Northern Ireland v Moldova (at Windsor Park, Belfast, 8.0)	A International match: Wales v Argentina (at Pontypool, 7.15)
Qualifying group six: San Marino v Cyprus	TOUR MATCH: Glasgow Celticstars v New Zealand Maori (at M2000, 8.0)
Qualifying group eight: Malta v FYR Macedonia (7.0)	CLUB MATCH: Cardiff University v Newport R.V. (8.0)
Qualifying group nine: Yugoslavia v Ireland (at Red Star Stadium, 12.30)	RUGBY LEAGUE
European under-21 championship: Yugoslavia v Ireland (at St Mirren Park, Paisley)	International match: Scotland v Ireland (at Perth, 7.30)
Under-21 international match: Portugal v Wales (at Braganca, 2.0)	OTHER SPORT
INTERNET LEAGUE: First division: Southampton v Norwich (2.0)	BASKETBALL: Salisbury's Classic Cola National Cup Quarter-finals: Greater London v Birmingham (7.30), Sheffield v Derby (7.45), Manchester v Thames Valley (7.30)
INTERNET LEAGUE: First division: Barnet v Brentford (2.0)	
INTERNET LEAGUE: First division: Brentford v Barnet (2.0)	
INTERNET LEAGUE: First division: Brentford v Barnet (2.0)	
INTERNET LEAGUE: First division: Brentford v Barnet (2.0)	

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

AUCUBA (c) A mosaic disease which attacks the solanaceous plants. "It was not possible to distinguish serologically the viruses of tobacco mosaic, aucuba mosaic and tomato streak."

GARROCHA (a) A blunt pole used for prodding cattle in the silly "sport" of bull-baiting.

BOMBORA (b) A dangerous stretch of water where the waves break over a submerged reef of rocks. The Aboriginal word.

DUBBELTJE (c) One of several South African weeds, especially *Tribulus terrestris* or *Ernex Australis*. Southern Afrikaans.

Solution to *Knitting Move*
1. R6*1; K2*2; 2. R2*6; 3. R2*6 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Escape to the Middle Ages

Behind Closed Doors
BBC2, 7.30pm

A series on people who like to keep themselves to themselves opens at a Cistercian Monastery in Leicestershire. Mount Saint Bernard Abbey is home to 38 monks who have decided to leave the world that most of us inhabit for a life of chastity, poverty, study and prayer. Although they are not bothered by many of the stresses and irritations of the late 20th century, their days are full. They are up at 3.15am and, meals apart, there are few spare minutes in a day devoted to the celebration of God. The vow of silence was dropped some years ago but one of the monks claims that their regime has not changed that much since the Middle Ages. Critics who see the monastic existence as a cop-out receive no answer, nor do we discover how this cloistered way of life is paid for.



Chalet girls Katrina and Camilla feature in *War and Piste* (BBC1, 10pm)

Hornblower
ITV, 8.00pm

After a successful launch in September, which drew nearly nine million viewers and much critical praise, the Hornblower series resumes a month earlier than planned. Perhaps the only grumble about another polished and intelligent film, which scores particularly highly in the visual department, is the lack of a unifying plot. With two hours to fill the episodic structure is sometimes a handicap, though this is not for want of incident. Scuffles with the Spanish, a brush with the plague and a seaman who goes off the rails after the death of a colleague are among the storylines which keep the narrative flowing. The binding theme, meanwhile, is the continuing education of our young hero, attractively played by Ioan Gruffudd, as he rises, not without alarms, up the chain of command.

doubt (even up once the first guests arrive. Meanwhile, viewers can amuse themselves trying to spot the stars which docuostars unfailingly create. Will they come from the ranks of the chalet girls and boys, who have to cook and clean for just £55 a week (though their skiing is free)? Or what about Natasha, who has been put in charge of the chalet staff despite having no management experience? But the early money must be on Fraser and Scott, public schoolboys who have driven 700 miles in an old Rover hoping for casual work.

Bob and Margaret
Channel 4, 10.30pm

Welcome back to Bob, the suburban dentist, and Margaret, his chiropractic wife, whose creators did Britain proud at the 1995 Oscars by winning the award for best short animation. That 12-minute comedy by Alison Snowden and David Fine has been developed into a series, which may appropriate traditional sitcom territory but often does so in a fresh and funny way. Episode one sees the nerdy Bob and Margaret stuck at home with nothing to watch on the telly and trying to come up with the main event with a pizza and video. Then the mander invites them there to bore them with their new baby from hell. Snowden herself provides the voice of Margaret, while listeners to *The News Quiz* on Radio 4 will note that Bob sounds exactly like Andy Hamilton. Peter Waymark

War and Piste
BBC1, 10.00pm

A truly awful title heralds the BBC's latest venture into reality soap, a series set in the French ski resort of Val d'Isere and featuring the Brits who work there during the four-month season. With the first episode little more than a scene-setter, *War and Piste* gets off to a quiet start but things will no

RADIO CHOICE

Wildbrain Radio 4, 1.30pm	Anna Raeburn Talk Radio, 2.00pm
Everything you always wanted to know about wildlife but were afraid to ask. David Attenborough can be dragged out of the hedgerows of knowledge in this quiz, back for another series. The idea is to find the best naturalist in Britain and contestants are drawn from real life rather than the coterie of media professionals. The title the winner gets at the end of the series is of course <i>Wildbrain 98</i> : now there is something to enliven an otherwise dull curriculum vitae. Lionel Kellaway chairs the quiz and the first programme comes from Tring in Hertfordshire, where the contestants are Richard Birch, a field botanist, Geoff Chase, a science teacher, and Nigel Snell, a conservation officer with English Nature.	I have not yet reached the point where I need an agony aunt but if I did I would turn to Raeburn, whose two-hour show manages to deal with difficult personal issues in a way that is neither embarrassing nor sensationalist. Raeburn has the key quality of patience but she also has the good journalistic quality of being able to nudge her listeners towards what they have rung up about, not always the same as their nominal reason for calling. Today Raeburn deals with what happens when a divorced man in his fifties, who has already brought up a family, falls in love with a woman in her thirties who wants to have children. One answer is to turn tail and run but I doubt that Raeburn will suggest that. Peter Barnard
RADIO 1 (BBC)	BBC WORLD SERVICE
6.30am Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 12.30pm News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Ibiza Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Glaston 2.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills	5.00am The World Today 6.30 Sports International 7.00 News 7.15 Cllr the Staff, Hemmings Short Stories 7.30 Mendenhall 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 Everywoman 9.00 News (648 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Farming World 9.30 Britain Now 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 One Planet 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Sports International 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Soundbite 2.30 Megarix 3.00 News (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywoman 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.30 Insight (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 4.50 News Today 5.00 News Today 5.30 News 5.35 Sports Round-Up 6.00 News 6.05 The Works (648 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack X-Press 8.00 News Hour 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 On Screen 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack X-Press 12.00 Newsweek 12.30am From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 Outlook 2.00 Newsweek 2.30 Mendenhall 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Britain Today 4.00 The World Today
RADIO 2 (BBC)	VIRGIN
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Rogan 8.30 Richard Allison 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barnacloagh News Country 8.00 Live at Home 9.00 All Singing All Dancing At Night 10.10 Home 12.00 Katrina Leschkaner 3.00am Alex Lester	6.30am Jonathan Ross 8.30 Pass Williams 1.00pm Nick Bostic 4.00 Bobby New 7.30 Hazel Scott 10.00 Janey Lee Doole 1.00am James Vanni 4.30 Jeremy Clark
RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)	TALK RADIO
5.00am Morning Reports 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Anne Webster 1.00pm Race and Car 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Ganley 7.00 News Extra 8.00 News and the News Debate 9.00 News 10.30 News with David McNeil 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night Coverage of the night's top match. Plus the National Lottery Result 10.00 Late Night 11.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night	5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chesham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Anna Raeburn See Choice 4.00 Peter Dinkley's Drivetime 6.00 The Sports Zone 10.00 James Whale 12.00 Ian Collins
RADIO 3	RADIO 4
6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
6.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbay, Rossini (Overture: Semiramide); Mozart (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy); Liszt (Chaconne, Op 109); Liszt (Chaconne, Op 109); Liszt (Chaconne, Op 109)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Mackerras	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
11.00 Sound Stories with Peggy Reynolds	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Constantine Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC National Orchestra of Wales under the baton of conductor David Parry. Includes: Smetana (Mlada, Ma Vlast); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
4.00 Choral Evening Live from Portsmouth Cathedral. Organist and master of the choristers David Price. Assistant organist David Thorne	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the singer Patricia	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
RADIO 3	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Royal Festival Hall. Joan Rodgers, soprano; BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. Tippett (The Rose Leaf); Strauss (Four Last Songs) 8.30 Book of the Month (E. M. Forster, part two, <i>Burmese Sympathy</i> No 4 in E minor)	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
9.35 Postscript: Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of celebrities	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
10.00 Ensemble: A programme inspired by childhood, including a performance of Philip Glass, violin, and Stephen Coombes, piano	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
10.45 Night Waves: Laura Cumming reassesses the life and work of the Italian painter Caravaggio in the light of two new studies. Plus a look at Ewan McGregor as the disruptive student suspended from school in a new production of David Hare's <i>Little Malcolm and the Battle against the Euruchs</i>	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
11.30 Jazz Notes: Alyn Shipton presents the second of two excerpts from a concert given in Edinburgh by Carol Kidd and her band.	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy (I) 1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
RADIO 4	6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzo No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: Scherzo); Liszt, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19 Divertimento); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor; Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)
4.00 Case Notes: Graham Easton discovers how the body clock affects an individual's wellbeing (I) 4.30 Thinking Allowed with Laura Taylor and guests 5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mar 6.30 O'Clock News 6.30 Reiner Mersdorf's All Classical Music Explained: Tongue-in-cheek guide to music with Richard Thomas and Tasmin Little 7.00 The Archers 7.15 From Row Arts review, with Mark Lawson 7.45 80th Anniversary: Ann Marie De Marnock's story about a woman trying to find her missing husband (I) 8.00 The Moral Maze: Michael Buckton ponders ethical issues behind the week's news with Janet Daley, David Starkey, David Cook and Ian Hargreaves 9.00 Costing the Earth: Investigation into developments in IVF and animal cloning which could widen the gene pool but may not be enough to rescue threatened species 9.30 Midweek (I) 10.00 The World Tonight: Robin Lustig presents 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes Philip Frank revisits part eight of Alain-Fournier's passionate tale of adolescent idealism (I) 11.00 Late Night on 4: Five Squeaky Pieces Offbeat Maria McEneaney, Claire Galman, Julia Davis, and Alan White 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament: Round-up of developments in both houses 11.30 (FM) Radio Shuttleworth: Graham Fellows, in the guise of singer-songwriter John Mellencamp, answers questions posed by students, parents and staff at Slough School, Newton Abbot (I) 11.30 Evening Live: A special gala whether justice and revenge are the same thing 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament: Round-up of developments in both houses 11.30 (FM) Radio Shuttleworth: Graham Fellows, in the guise of singer-songwriter John Mellencamp, answers questions posed by students, parents and staff at Slough School, Newton Abbot (I) 11.30 Evening Live: A special gala whether justice and revenge are the same thing 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament: Round-up of developments in both houses 11.30 (FM) Radio Shuttleworth: Graham Fellows, in the guise of singer-songwriter John Mellencamp, answers questions 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Behind the posturing, everyday life for Iraqis

A war correspondent rushing in and out of Baghdad in a hurry might easily think that Kifah and Alla, two of the many Government-appointed ministers that Saddam Hussein likes to clamp on to visiting journalists, were a couple of new characters from *The Fast Show*. Alla, an effeminate man with "an eye for the ladies" and a stomach for ice cream, minced about like the *maître d'* of a Home Counties restaurant that has ideas above its station. Kifah's first passionate words to us were: "Liverpool is my best club. I can't forget Steve Heighway, or Ray Kennedy, or Ray Clements, or Hughes. If England played with Iraq I'd support England. I like them too much, believe me. I can't forget Bobby Moore. I can't forget him. What a person! He's like a superstar! Like movie superstar!" And he's mad on Kevin Keegan, too. But then things started going

badly for Kifah. And the worse things got for Kifah, the better they got for Sean McAllister and the film he was making for *Modern Times* (BBC2). McAllister had come to Baghdad, like scores of other journalists and cameramen, to make a film of the impending war. When Saddam blinked (this was the last time he blinked), McAllister hung around and ended up with a film more revealing than the one he might have ended up with had the war arrived. No war means no foreign journalists to escort to carefully treated scenes of wounded civilians. So Kifah—who had been taken on temporarily to cover the crisis—was jobless again. Kifah used to teach English, but had been out of work for three years. In the week before his sacking he had made \$120 in tips from foreign journalists—more than he had earned in the eight years since UN sanctions were imposed against Iraq. Smart-

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

ly, McAllister snuck with Kifah, and filmed him as he went about his daily routine. It was a glimpse into life in Baghdad you don't see in those 90-second news clips from journalists who are speaking excitedly to camouflage the fact that their entire knowledge of the day's battle movements comes from a briefing by an American press attaché delivered in an hotel room 200 miles from the war zone. Away from the ululating Iraqi women demonstrating for the UN against the UN sanctions, Kifah beckoned McAllister into his private world. He lives with his mother in a down-at-head house, where all the furniture has been sold over the years to buy food. His bedroom walls bear the marks where photographs of Peter Shilton and Archie Gemmill and Kevin Keegan once were. He feels he has little to live for, and has little to show for the life he has lived. All his young man's dreams have become middle-aged pipedreams. He has no wife, no house of his own, no car. Not even a watch: he sold it, also for food. Kifah was honest and open, but so honest and open as to blame anybody for his plight, although you sensed that if it came to pointing fingers, his would be aimed at his own Government.

The Iraqi people are as much cartoon characters to us as we Westerners are to them—both demonised as evil zealots by our respective media. McAllister may not come across as the most sensitive interviewer, but his intimate and moving film reminded you that the world is (mostly) full of sane, decent people, struggling to make ends meet and to make sense of life: it's the leaders, such as Saddam, who are mad. It's not just the rulers of countries who don't know how people live. Company bosses can be just as blinkered. Back to the Floor (BBC2) is a simple idea, wonderfully executed. It persuades big bosses to see what life is like at the coalface, which they last saw many 30 years previously. Last night Tony Pidgley, multimillionaire boss of Berkeley Homes, returned to a building site and was appalled at the working conditions of his staff and at the shameful after-

sales service received by buyers of his "executive homes" in the half-completed Harrods Village. We can never know how much of the bosses' head-shaking outrage is manufactured for the camera (would somebody taking this project seriously arrive on site, as Pidgley did, dressed in a business suit in his chauffeur-driven aubergine Bentley?), but it is breathtaking to see how many companies don't bother to find out how angry their customers or their staff are until the television cameras or the bankruptcy bailiffs come knocking at their door. The first in a series about Wrexham (BBC2) took a nostalgic look at cereal boxes, which flooded into Britain after the war from America, where they had been invented for invalids by doctors working in sanatoriums. It was such a novel concept for egg-and-

bacon-eaters that the box for Grape Nuts ("For brain and nerve control") carried the warning: "Do Not Try To Cook This Food." First over the drawbridge was Force, which was not only the first ready-to-eat cereal, but also the pioneer of the practice of saving coupons from packet tops which could be later exchanged for a set of numbers, so garish that you'd be embarrassed to use them even for Brian Finken, the UK managing director of Force between 1952 and 1985, recalled that "It was a great marketing struggle to begin with to get people educated to know how to use it," which might explain why breakfast cereals—advertised not only as healthy but as aids to digestion—were so slow to take off in France. The French must have assumed, as with other trusted health treatments—that Force flakes were a novel American form of suppository.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (60895)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (730079)
 - 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8583383)
 - 9.40 Style Challenge (9326234)
 - 10.05 City Hospital (9460147)
 - 10.55 News (T) and weather (9213031)
 - 11.00 Real Roots (9237078)
 - 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9233895)
 - 11.55 News (T) and weather (9367550)
 - 12.00 Pass the Buck (4861505) 12.25pm Going for a Song (8440012) 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (8221924)
 - 1.00 News (T) and weather (93166)
 - 1.30 Regional News (T) (73293166)
 - 1.40 Neighbours (T) (6578383)
 - 2.05 Inside (T) (9065673) 2.55 Wipeout (2265166)
 - 3.25 Playdays (T) (6914503) 3.45 Bananaman (T) (8416892) 3.50 ChuckleVision (T) (2352321) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (9127234) 4.35 The Queen's Nose. New series (T) (7797963) 5.00 Newsround (T) (4426673) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (573470)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (363)
 - 6.30 Regional News (T) (963)
 - 7.00 A Question of Sport With Everton's new signing John Collins. Wigan winger Martin Offiah, cricketer Mark Butcher and athlete Kelly Holmes (T) (1499)
 - 7.30 Tomorrow's World Are the fittest astronauts necessarily the best? (T) (147)
 - 8.00 The Life of Birds: Fishing for Life Sir David Attenborough examines the lives of seabirds (T) (664363)
 - 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (T) (517180)
 - 9.00 News (T) and weather (9876)
 - 9.29 National Lottery Update (T) (287012)
 - 9.30 Q&A: Secrets of the Cloud People Does a cliff-top tomb in Amazonia containing 200 preserved mummies hold the secrets of an ancient South American civilisation? (T) (49654)
 - 10.00 War and Peace New six-part series following the fortunes of a group of young Brits who spend their winter working in Val D'Isere, France (34234) WALES: 10.00 The Silver Screen. Profile of Stanley Baker (888383) 10.40 Know Your Poison (338973) 10.55 War and Peace (283383) 11.25 The Best of British (854708) 12.10am FILM: Carry On Camping (4872451) 1.35 FILM: Percy's Progress (322971) 3.10 News (23835857) 3.15 BBC News 24
 - 10.30 The Best of British Profile of Cliff Richard. With anecdotes from Hank Marvin, Tim Rice and Olivia Newton-John (T) (215673)
 - 11.15 Carry On Camping (1989) Rando Sid James and his crew plan to lure their unsuspecting girlfriends to a nudist camp. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (442895)
 - 12.00am Percy's Progress (1974) Adult comedy sequel following Leigh Lawson's escapades after his revolutionary transplant operation. Directed by Ralph Thomas (T) (586161)
 - 2.15 Weather (6578258)
 - 2.20 BBC News 24
- VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes**
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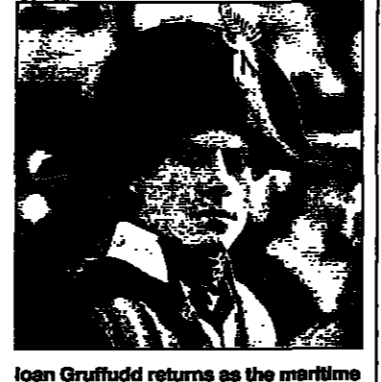
- BBC2**
- 6.10am Duocito: The Ruccellai Madonna (3090470) 6.35 Caught in Time? (9826273)
 - 7.00 King Greenfingers 7.05 Teletubbies 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids 7.55 To Me, To You 8.20 Robinson Crusoe 8.45 Junior Jungle 8.55 King Greenfingers 9.00 Space Ark (T) (7458012) 9.10 What? Where? When? Why? (7478876) 9.25 Focus: Substance Misuse (T) (5868437) 9.45 Words and Pictures (8498760) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) 10.30 Numberline (3036860) 10.45 Cat's Eyes (3024741) 1.00 Around Scotland (9732128) 11.00 Geography Programme (T) (4104031) 11.40 Science in Action (T) (7094682) 12.00 Teaching Today (31147)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch (50760)
 - 1.00 Juniper Jungle (T) (98116321) 1.10 Sophie Grigson's Herbs (4302321) 1.15 The History Hour: St Andrews, and the first off-the-peg slippers (T) (797321) 2.15 Match of the Day: Emlyn Hughes (70759789) 2.40 News 2.45 Westminster (T) (2657128) 3.55 News (T)
 - 4.00 Change That (T) (T) (3554296) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (3557383) 4.55 Esther: Birth Begins at 40 (T) (T) (5322857) 5.30 Celebrity Today's Day with guests Glona Hunniford and Tom O'Connor (T) (352)
 - 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (T) (646302)
 - 6.45 Sliders (T) (234876)
 - 7.30 Behind Closed Doors: A God Shaped Space An intimate portrait of the monks of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Leicestershire, which is celebrating its 900th anniversary (T) (789)
 - 8.00 Looking Good (1/5) Compilation of the beauty and fashion series (8789)
 - 8.30 Home Front New 12-part series of the home decorating magazine. Revamping a tired kitchen; textured wall finishes; and the Dean family prepare to renovate their dear Victorian house in North London (T) (7286)
 - 9.00 Nurse John Danton has his first experience of a birth: Jo Banks comes to terms with patients suffering chronic dementia (736885)
 - 9.50 Trade Secrets: Builders (829418)
 - 10.00 In Stitches Comic doctor-patient encounters (32876)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (T) (213215) 11.15 Brothers and Sisters (907202) 11.55 Weather (557166) 12.00 Despatch Book (22890)
 - 12.30am Learning Zone: The Growing Child (51780) 1.00 Who Calls the Shots? (30513) 2.00 Windows on the Mind (51451) 2.00 Technology (83242) 4.00 Deutsch (90722) 5.00 RCN Nursing Update (2900567) 5.45 O.U. Flowering (86190)

- BBC4**
- 6.00am GMTV (930895)
 - 9.25 Trisha (T) (5925352)
 - 10.15 This Morning The guests are the comedian Frank Skinner and the soprano Lesley Garrett (T) (602936)
 - 12.15pm HTV News and weather (3662499)
 - 12.30 News (T) and weather (54586)
 - 1.00 Shortland Street (28234) 1.30 Home and Away (T) (53857) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5847091) 2.40 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (2254050)
 - 3.10 News (7779234)
 - 3.15 Regional News and weather (7778505)
 - 3.20 Walecia (T) (7759470) 3.30 The Show News (T) (42654) 3.45 The Animal World (7178477) 4.00 Rupert (T) (2574050) 4.25 The Rottenbots (T) (4630168) 4.40 Mad for It (9062321)
 - 5.10 WALES: Primetime Diary (4654876)
 - 5.10 Wildlife Rescue (4654876)
 - 5.40 News (T) and weather (699168)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (T) (482055)
 - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (960363)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (963363)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (401)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale Steve vows revenge vengeance on Kim (T) (9895)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street Des battles back from the brink (T) (215)
 - 8.00 Homblower: The Examination for Lieutenant Homblower is promoted to acting lieutenant. Homblower is forced to question his readiness for leadership (T) (4437)
 - 10.00 News (T) and weather (29302)
 - 10.30 Regional News (343505)
 - 10.40 Clive James on TV Clive James reminisces about the time when beauty contests were a major event in television schedules and looks at the glory days of the Miss World contest (212895)
 - 11.10 The Big Match Highlights of England's friendly international match against the Czech Republic (474499)
 - 12.10 State of Grace (1991) Gangster thriller with Sean Penn, Ed Harris and Gary Oldman. An undercover cop infiltrates a syndicate run by an old school friend and finds that the gang is being squeezed by both the police and the Mafia. Directed by Phil Joanou (6410684)
 - 2.35 The Hospital Traveller David Bean continues his trek through Cumbria, heading west from Skipton (493432)
 - 3.00 Trisha (T) (T) (8320242)
 - 3.40 Cybernet (21972242)
 - 4.10 Stash (92706109)
 - 4.20 ITV Nightvision (3944068)
 - 5.30 News (27345)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 1.00pm Echo Point (28234)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9789654)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4654876)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (90383)
 - 3.00am Trisha (3820242)
 - 3.40 Cybernet (21972242)
 - 4.10 Central Jobfinder '98 (3940884)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (3683600)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.15pm-12.30 Westcountry News (3862498)
 - 1.00 Emmerdale (28234)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9789654)
 - 5.08 Birthday People (9277673)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4654876)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (62505)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (3862498)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4654876)
 - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (609)
 - 6.30-7.00 Holiday Park (401)
 - 5.00am Freecore (91083)
- ANGLIA AIR WATCH**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (9911895)
 - 1.00-1.30 Split Second (28234)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4654876)
 - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (98038)
 - 10.25 Anglia Air Watch (9911895)
- Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (23789)
- 9.00 Book Box (48079)
 - 9.30 Ret-A-Tat-Tat (6485673)
 - 9.45 Book Box (8490128)
 - 10.00 Stage Two Science (3032128)
 - 10.15 All About Us (6891596)
 - 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (9875588)
 - 11.15 Inside Art (4118234)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse (3079)
 - 12.00pm Judge Jo Brown (28215)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street (52128)
 - 1.00 Planned Plant (98192741)
 - 1.15 Lisbeth (9919296)
 - 1.30 The Three Stooges (43041470)
 - 1.50 FILM: At the Earth's Core (94524012)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (437)
 - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (944)
 - 4.30 Rick Lake (128)
 - 5.00 Planned Plant (8645673)
 - 5.15 Pilei (4430418)
 - 5.30 Countdown (708)
 - 6.00 Newyddion (347892)
 - 6.05 Home (64321)
 - 6.55 Pobl y Cwm (584296)
 - 7.20 Y Chwy Rhyd (61526166)
 - 9.15 Newyddion (603001)
 - 9.30 Drop the Dead Donkey (65892)
 - 10.00 Brookside (152857)
 - 10.35 Ally McBeal (265055)
 - 11.30 Is It Legal? (77012)
 - 12.00am Under the Moon (8692258)
 - 4.30 Diweid (8033797)
 - 5.55 Sesame Street (3057451)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (23789)
 - 9.00 Schools: Book Box: Blabbermouth and Sticky Beak (T) (46078) 9.30 Ret-A-Tat (6485673) 9.45 Book Box: Blabbermouth and Sticky Beak (9490128) 10.00 Stage Two Science. Habbits (3032128) 10.30 Winners (3055079) 10.30 Topi En France (9844470) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen: The Arts Card (6447437) 11.00 First Edition V (4195383) 11.15 Inside Art (4118234)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (3079)
 - 12.00 Sesame Street (28215)
 - 12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (T) (52128)
 - 1.00 Judge Jo Brown (T) (28876)
 - 1.30 Little Bird (5937185)
 - 1.35 Count Your Blessings (1958) Wartime drama with Rosano Brazzi as a devil-may-care Frenchman and Deborah Kerr as his long-suffering home-building wife. Maurice Chevalier is their guardian angel. Sean Negulescu directs (T) (6238363)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (437) Fifteen-to-One (T) (944) 4.30 Countdown (T) (781302) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Mothers who insist they know what's best for their children (T) (5317925)
 - 5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (708)
 - 6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue with guests Bjork, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer (60147)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (574031)
 - 7.55 Talking Heads (3/4) A head teacher talks about his work (T) (238596)
 - 8.00 Brookside Tim saves the day in a fire (T) (3857)
 - 8.30 The Real Holiday Show presented by Davina McCall. Three Rochdale pensioners on a holiday of a lifetime in Barbados. Plus, a divorcee visits Poland and a family on a British beaching trip record their vacation on video (T) (5892)
 - 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey George organises his fear of flying (2588)
 - 9.30 Is It Legal? Colin's home-made biscuits have a remarkable effect on Alison (T) (5892)
 - 10.00 Rising Damp Rigby is alarmed by his new tenant (T) (27944)
- Oscar-winning animation from Alison Snowden and David Fine (10.30pm)
- 10.30 Bob and Margaret The Oscar-winning animation, a sort of cartoon Terry and June. The couple are at a loose end when the TV goes on the blink (T) (36692)
 - 11.00 Whose Line Is It Anyway? with Greg Proops, Colin Mochrie, Ryan Stiles and, making his debut, Phil Larmer (T) (7031)
 - 11.30 Comedy Club Comedy showcase (77012)
 - 12.00am Under the Moon Includes: 2.35 Football Italia 4.30 High 5 with Ed Sheeran 5.00 Trans World Sport (6401884)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 68 on the Astra Satellites. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 68 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.02 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (2733760) 7.00 WideWorld (T) (T) (6404637) 7.30 Milkshake! (777733)
 - 7.35 Wm's House (T) (1910673) 8.00 Hawkland (T) (6503215) 8.30 DappleDown Farm (902588)
 - 9.00 HouseBusters (T) (T) (7722654) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards. Llandudno (T) (4578050) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9050483) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2343079) 11.10 Lezza (T) (9358944)
 - 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (280302) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (773470) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6405708) 1.30 Sons of Anarchy (T) (6236741) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5051854) 2.30 Good Afternoon (6479437)
 - 3.30 Aloha Means Goodbye (1974) with Sally Struthers and James Franciscus. A young woman with a rare blood disorder suspects her doctor of foul play when her health rapidly worsens after he performs a series of experimental tests. David Lowell Rich directs (4274031)
 - 5.10 The Roseanne Show (577483) 6.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5051854) 6.30 Family Affairs (T) (5540470)
 - 7.00 5 News (T) (5056470)
 - 7.30 The Pepsi Chart Including performances by All Saints, Five and Steps (5546854)
 - 8.00 The Car Show (507148)
 - 8.30 In the Dark Game show hosted by Junior Simpson (T) (5050825)
 - 9.00 The Silencers (1990) Futuristic thriller with Jack Scalia and Dennis Christopher and Carlos Lauch. A special agent's investigation into an attack on secret cyrogene transfers links the men responsible with an alien race intending to invade. Directed by Richard Pepin (T) (81214673)
 - 10.55 Melinda's Big Night In Melinda's guests include Spice Girl Emma Bunton, comedian Jeff Green, soul singer Lynden David Hall and actor Ben Hull (9232854)
 - 11.35 Compromising Situations A self-conscious male strikes up a romance on the Internet (8233394)
 - 12.10am NHL: American Ice Hockey Edmonton v Montreal (49753600)
 - 4.40 Club Class (T) (82989364) 5.05 Move on Up (4795118)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (1638242)



Joan Gruffudd returns as the merlinite hero, Horatio Homblower (8pm)



All Saints perform their new single live in the studio (7.30pm)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision
- SKY 1**
- 7.00am The Simpsons (74437) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (94770) 8.30 Hollywood Scenes (82331) 9.00 Gully Blows (9185) 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (9128)
 - 11.00 Oprah (69292) 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (94770) 12.50am Special K Collection (2843073) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (953418) 1.35 Special K Collection (812079) 2.35 Special K Collection (4989159) 3.00 Jerry Jones (902429)
 - 3.55 Special K Collection (2843073) 4.00 Gully Blows (9185) 4.30 Mums with Children (5693) 5.30 Friends (6215) 7.00 The Simpsons (1031) 7.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 8.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 8.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 9.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 9.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 10.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 10.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 11.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 11.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 12.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 12.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 1.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 1.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 1.55 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 2.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 2.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 3.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 3.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 4.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 4.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 5.00 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 5.30 The X-Files: Scrogan SE-1 (3858) 6.00 The X-Files: 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RUGBY UNION 37

Former Argentina international makes debut for Australia



CRICKET 39

Confidence growing that Atherton will take Test place



Campbell handed England captaincy after Villa defender is omitted

Hoddle delivers snub to Southgate

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

BRIDGE clubs, be they in the Home Counties or the Bronx, are not readily associated with calls to arms. Still, a few optimists went to the South Bucks branch yesterday hoping to be stirred, to be rallied, to be told that things were going to get better for the England football team at Wembley tonight after the trials and tribulations of previous months.

But after Glenn Hoddle had finished with them, bridge clubs everywhere breathed a sigh of relief.

Everyone knows that the England coach is hardly a troubadour. He is not an expansive man, not someone given to shows of passion, spontaneity or lyricism. But at a time when England and their supporters need all the cheer they can get, the stolid, grim pose he struck on a day when even his detractors were seeking reasons for optimism would not have enlivened a whist drive, let alone the build-up to an international football match.

Invited to praise the patriotism and commitment of Southgate, Hoddle ventured only this: "A squad was chosen, he was in it and now he has arrived." Is it any wonder that, one by one, he appears to be systematically alienating his men? Their respect for him seems to be dwindling by the day. If England scored as many own goals as their coach, they would already be out of the European championship.

Hoddle was in a bad mood, apparently. He was cross, he later told television and radio stations, about the manner in which some newspapers yesterday morning had treated his studiously uncontroverted comments about David Beckham. He had a right to be annoyed, but rather than confront the problem, dismiss it and move on to the raising of spirits for the match against the Czech Republic at Wembley tonight, Hoddle chose to sulk.

The bright points in the line-up are a chance for Rio Ferdinand and at the centre of the back three, the handing of the captaincy to the consistently excellent Sol Campbell and the presence of the Aston Villa teammates, Paul Merson and Dion Dublin, in a lively front three. Lee Hendrie, the young Villa midfielder player, is also likely to make an appearance as a substitute. Hoddle could and should have emphasised those positives. Instead, he chose recalcitrance.

Sometimes it is almost as if he is courting adverse criticism. Last night, for example,

it appeared that he had left Gareth Southgate out of the starting line-up, even after the Aston Villa centre half had gone to the extreme of having the birth of his first child, a daughter, induced so that he could join up with the squad. Many had expected Southgate to be rewarded with the captaincy for that sacrifice, but he was consigned to the substitutes' bench instead.



A reluctant Hoddle faces the media yesterday as England prepare for their match against the Czech Republic

have been less than impressed with their coach for some time now. They read the papers, particularly the tabloid papers, and each public relations blunder that Hoddle makes increases the pressure on them at a time when they need unconditional backing to restore their shattered confidence.

At one stage, he was so reluctant to talk about the need for a convincing victory against the Czechs, to propel England into a new year with renewed vigour, that he seemed to be suggesting a defeat might be just as welcome. "In many ways," he said, "I might learn a lot more about the players if the game does not go smoothly. If they do not perform for whatever reason, then I will learn from that as well."

One would think that he had experienced more than enough adversity in the past few months to wish any more upon his players. They have only won three of their past eight games, after all, and the

last of those — the 3-0 win over Luxembourg — was so unconvincing it was met with a chorus of jeers from the travelling fans.

Even if, as he said, the true importance of the match against the Czechs is as a building block towards the next European championship qualifying game, against Poland at Wembley on March 27, securing a win tonight is vital if the siege mentality that has settled over England is to be lifted, and hope of making it to Holland and Belgium in 2000 is to be rekindled.

The last thing that Hoddle or his players need is to be booed off again at Wembley, as they were after their 0-0

draw with Bulgaria last month, but Hoddle was loath even to acknowledge this fact. "What you guys need for tomorrow morning," he told the assembled reporters, "and what I need for next March are miles apart."

The most satisfying thing for me would be to go and see some of the players who have been on the fringe of the squad go out there and do well. I want players to hit me in the eye. But if they don't, they shouldn't feel that they will be cast out of the squad. Sol will be captain because he leads by example. The players respond to him. I don't want to cast my mind back to what happened after the Bulgaria game. It is negative. You have to throw yourself forward. If these players go out there with fear, it will be detrimental to their performance. They are not on trial."

PROBABLE TEAMS AT WEMBLEY			
ENGLAND (3-4-1-2)			
N Martin (Leeds United)			
M Keown (Aston)	R Ferdinand (West Ham Utd)	S Campbell (Tottenham, captain)	
D Anderson (Tottenham)	D Beckham (Man Utd)	N Butt (Man Utd)	G Le Saux (Chelsea)
P Merson (Aston Villa)			
CZECH REPUBLIC (3-5-2)			
V Smolcer (FC Lvov)	F Kucera (FC Hradec Králové)		
P Berger (Liverpool)	R Lalat (Sokolka 04)	R Beljal (All Medical)	T Votava (Sparta Prague)
T Rapka (Fiorantina)	J Novotny (Sparta Prague)	M Kotulak (Olomouc)	K Polorsky (Berchka)
	P Kouba (Victoria Zizkov)		
References: U Meier (Switzerland) TV: ITV, 11.10; Highlights			

Wright staff, page 40
Czech males, page 40

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

- No 1566**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Quibble (5)
 - 7 Principle (7)
 - 8 Woodblock (floor) (7)
 - 9 Ham it up (7)
 - 11 Saturate (6)
 - 13 Restless desire (for) (9)
 - 15 US Western film tough-guy (4,5)
 - 19 Hearty laugh (6)
 - 21 Prohibits (7)
 - 23 Variant of element (7)
 - 24 Reticule; Jack Worthing mislaid in one (7)
 - 25 Call across Swiss valley (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Love god (5)
 - 2 Engulfing spiral (leg of whirl-pool) (6)
 - 3 Get (project) started (6)
 - 4 Ban (4)
 - 5 Looking-glass (6)
 - 6 Railed platform; theatre area (7)
 - 10 Norse raider; a sea area (6)
 - 12 Risk, danger (6)
 - 14 Washington DC river (7)
 - 16 A necessity; Footers, for Gros-smiths (6)
 - 17 Speech of praise (6)
 - 18 Provide; be able to purchase (6)
 - 20 Execute turning movement (5)
 - 22 Breathily gesture; the Moor's Last, Rusdith (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1565

ACROSS: 1 Shibboleth 9 Analogy 10 Twirl 11 Till 12 Nutrient 14 Retort 15 Balsam 18 Friendly 20 Fire 22 Radji 23 Galilee 24 Sixth sense

DOWN: 2 Hoof 3 Bayeux 4 Outback 5 Exile 6 Half-timbered 7 Master of Arts 8 Pallet 13 Brandish 16 Shield 17 Plague 19 Index 21 Alms

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Hemery strikes gold again

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THIRTY years after achieving the ultimate athletic goal, winning an Olympic gold medal with a world record, David Hemery has been voted into the most powerful post in British athletics. It is almost as long since Harold Abrahams, the 1924 *Chariots of Fire* Olympic 100 metres champion, thought that Hemery had the credentials to become the sport's most influential official, but then changed his mind.

Hemery was revealed yesterday — to his surprise — as the first president of Athletics UK. A vote by a sturdy 46 per cent of Britain's 1,604 clubs gave him a margin of victory every bit as clear-cut as the one he had at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. Hemery recounted how Abrahams, who governed British athletics for many years, had suggested to him in 1972 that he might be a suitable successor — until he heard his radical ideas on professionalism, medical support, and separate administration for the elite and masses.

As Hemery pointed out yesterday, if they were radical views then, they are substance now. Yet, until yesterday, Hemery had not been voted into any official role in the sport since he was chairman of the International Athletics Club in 1973 and 1974. He has worked on the periphery, but mostly he has been committed to his management training business.

Mike Turner, the former Great Britain Olympic team manager, 99. One of Hemery's first moves will be not to isolate the other four.



FAST TRACK TO THE TOP

Born: July 18, 1944, Cranston

The athlete: Won Olympic 400 metres hurdles gold medal in world record 48.12sec at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. Three times winner of the BBC Sports Personality award.

The official: chairman of International Athletics Club (1973-74), first president of Athletics UK (1998)

The businessman: has run a business for the past ten years, applying the principles of coaching into management training to motivate the worker

The writer: author of *Another Hurdle* (1978), *Scoring Excellence — What Makes A Champion?* (1980), *Athletics in Action* (1987), *Winning Without Drugs* (1990)

Hemery: flexibility

Europe's top clubs ready for kick-off

By Rob Hughes

THOSE who believe it is all over, that Uefa, European football's governing body, has regained full control of the Champions' League and that Media Partners and any other outsiders have lost, may only have half the truth. In a case-

now darkly suggests that the sub-group will seek discussions over fines, and over other matters of Fifa rule.

When Blatter yesterday supported the status quo, he mentioned that it amounted to anarchy for organisations outside the sporting authorities to try to rule. Is it not anarchy if the clubs that are, for the moment, all powerful, also attempt to prejudice not only the distribution of profits, but now also whether or not they should be subjected to punishment when they err?

The main conclusion in Madrid yesterday came from the so-called G-14 — the clubs who deem themselves to be Europe's elite. They are Real Madrid, Barcelona, AC Milan, Internazionale, Juventus, Manchester United, Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Marseille, Paris St Germain and FC Porto.

However, after the casino meeting, Lorenzo Sanz, the president of Real Madrid, and evidently the host to this gathering of the self-elected elite, warned: "We are not a parallel Uefa. We are collaborating with Uefa. We are a working group and we don't want to replace anyone."

They propose that income should reflect the omnipotence of the leading clubs in the leading nations. They want 45 per cent of the total to go to clubs from England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, 25 per cent to be distributed to all the participating clubs, and the remaining 30 per cent to be handed out as prize-money.

One might almost suspect that Sanz is attempting to clear Real Madrid's debts by the end of the decade. In their togetherness the 14 (or is it the five?) will surely sow disharmony among others. Can you imagine the thoughts of David Dein, the vice-chairman of Arsenal, who was vigorous in putting the case for change within Uefa, and who now discovers that Arsenal are outside the elite?

The 51 countries affiliated to Uefa will meet in Geneva next week to discuss their response. Uefa is scheduled to round up their final offer on December 11, and one week later the group calling themselves G-14 will meet again. Change is upon us, democracy might take longer.

'Perhaps Sanz is trying to clear Real Madrid's debts'

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